

T.C.
TURKISH- GERMAN UNIVERSTY
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

**ANALYZING OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND
UN 2030 AGENDA ON THE BASIS OF SUSTAINABILITY**

MASTER'S THESIS

Canan ÖZGÜR SOY

ADVISOR
Prof. Dr. Hartmut MARHOLD

ISTANBUL, January 2023

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I hereby declare that this thesis is an original work. I also declare that, I have acted in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct at all stages of the work including preparation, data collection and analysis. I have cited and referenced all the information that is not original to this work.

Name-Surname
Canan Özgürsoy

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I would like to dedicate this study to all nature lovers who take care of our planet.

ÖZET

Sanayileşmenin artmasıyla dünyadaki ekonomik rekabet artmış ve yeni teknolojik gelişmelere imza atılmıştır. Bunun sonucunda sera gazı emisyonları ciddi seviyelere ulaşarak insan hayatını tehdit edecek bir seviyeye gelmiştir. Bu kapsamda bu zamana kadar sürdürülebilirliğin sağlanmasına yönelik çeşitli katkıları bulunan BM ve AB gelecek planları hazırlamıştır. BM, 2015 yılında BM 2030 Gündemi'ni oluşturarak 17 başlık altında sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedefleri belirlemiştir. AB ise Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı'nı 2020'de onaylayarak Avrupa'nın yeşil geçişine öncülük edecek bir yol haritası belirlemiştir.

Bu araştırmada sürdürülebilir bir yaşam oluşturma temelinde buluşan BM 2030 Gündemi'nin ve Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı'nın çevresel hedefleri birlikte ele alınmıştır. Bu kapsamda her iki yaklaşımın iklim değişikliğine, biyoçeşitliliğin korunmasına ve temiz enerjinin sağlanmasına yönelik hedefleri tartışılacaktır. Hangisi daha kapsamlı olduğu, yönettikleri süreç hedeflerine doğru işlevsel bir şekilde devam edip etmedikleri, her ikisi arasında belirtilen hedefler kapsamında farklarının neler olduğu, son yıllarda bu konular hakkında neleri başarıp, hangi noktalarda geride kalmışlar gibi sorular sorularak analiz yapılacaktır. Güncel bir veri sunmayı amaçlayan bu araştırmada, özellikle son yıl verileri incelenmesiyle literatür boşluğunun doldurulması amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Avrupa Birliği, Birleşmiş Milletler, Sürdürülebilirlik, Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı, Birleşmiş Milletler 2030 Gündemi, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri

ABSTRACT

Global economic competitiveness has risen along with industrialisation, and new technological advancements have been produced. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions have reached critical levels, posing a threat to human life. In this context, the UN and the EU, who have made various contributions to ensuring sustainability so far, have prepared future plans. In 2015, the UN formed the UN 2030 Agenda, setting sustainable development goals under 17 headings. On the other hand, in 2020 the EU approved the European Green Deal, outlining a roadmap to lead Europe's green transition.

This research focuses on the environmental goals of the the European Green Deal and, UN 2030 Agenda which is based on creating a sustainable life. In this context, the aims of both approaches for addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, and providing clean energy are going to be discussed. The research will analyze which aim is more comprehensive, whether they are effectively continuing the process towards their goals, the differences between the aims outlined by the two, what they have achieved in recent years on these topics, and in which areas they have lagged. The research aims to provide current data and fill the literature gap by analyzing data from the last years.

Keywords: United Nations 2030 Agenda, The European Union, Sustainability, European Green Deal, Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity
- CEAP:** Circular Economy Action Plan
- COP:** Conference of the Parties
- CSD:** Commission on Sustainable Developments
- EED:** Energy Efficiency Directive
- EGD:** European Green Deal
- EGDIP:** European Green Deal Investment Plan
- ETS:** Emissions Trading System
- EU:** European Union
- GBF:** Global Biodiversity Framework
- GCOS:** Global Climate Observation System
- GHG:** Greenhouse Gas
- HLDE:** High-Level Dialogue On Energy
- IPCC:** Intergovernmental Conferences on Climate Change
- IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature
- JTF:** Just Transition Fund
- JTM:** Just Transition Mechanism
- KP:** Kyoto Protocol
- NDC:** Nationally Determined Contribution
- NGOs:** Non-governmental Organizations
- OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- RRF:** Recovery and Resilience Facility
- SBI:** Subsidiary Body on Implementation
- SBSTA:** Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

UN: United Nations

UNCED: The UN Conference on Environment and Development

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WCED: World Commission on Economic Development

WCS: World Conservation Strategy

WWF: World Wild Fund for Nature

WWII: Second World War

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1.CHAPTER: INTRODUCTION

“There must be a better way to make the things we want, a way that doesn’t spoil the sky, or the rain or the land.” - Paul McCartney

The understanding of production and consumption in the world has changed with the realization of the industrial revolution in the 19th century. The need for manufacturing resources increased quickly with the growth of technology and the world's population. As a result, the damage caused by humans to nature has also increased day by day and has led to exploitation. Especially after WWII, countries have focused on fixing their economies and have begun to take action to achieve various technological developments. However, while countries that focused more on economic, social, and technological issues brought positive developments for humans, their wrong policies resulted in the further pollution of nature.

The realization that industrialization causes various harms to the environment has also brought about a reaction movement in the social sphere. Since the late 1960s, environmental movements have risen, and human-centered and technology-centered nature perceptions have been critically scrutinized. By the 1970s, ecological movements began worldwide, both in civil and political formations. Many nations with various socioeconomic systems and developmental phases met together for the initial time to debate the environment at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 (Handl, 2012). In the 1980s, the concept of sustainability, which is defined as "using our existing resources for the future generations" (Brundtland, 1987), became a topic discussed at the state level for the first time. The concept's primary feature is that it emphasizes the protection of resources in the field in which it is used as well as the future of humanity.

The UN and the EU have played leading roles in many actions to protect the environment and have carried out many studies on this issue. From 1972 to 2015, the UN organized conferences in many countries to discuss and negotiate environmental issues. In 2015, the "UN 2030 Agenda" was established, setting sustainable development goals

under 17 headings for 2030. However, despite having developed a number of environmental laws prior to the 1990s, the EU, which has grown more concerned in environmental issues, has only recently begun to take them seriously. For instance, following the publication of the IPCC's first summary report in 1990, EU leaders decided in 2001 to maintain the EU's greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels (European Council, 1990). Since then, the EU has played a pioneering role in preparing and implementing the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, encouraging the adoption of commitments by states, which has significantly impacted the world's agenda (Deliktaş, 2021). So far, the EU has developed many programs and strategies to address climate change, such as the EU Climate and Energy Package (2007), Energy Roadmap to 2050 (2011), and 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy (2014). In 2019, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, announced the European Green Deal, which aims to reduce the EU's carbon footprint by 50-55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030 and make Europe carbon-neutral by 2050 (European Commission, 2019a)

The purpose of this study is to examine the goals of climate change, biodiversity conservation, and providing accessible clean energy as set out in the UN 2030 Agenda and EGD, both in terms of content and process. In order to provide effective research, the topics discussed and negotiated on both sides are limited to the stated goals.

This study's research question is "What are the roles of the UN 2030 Agenda and EGD in creating a sustainable world?". To analyze this question, the following sub-questions are intended to be answered:

- 1- Are the environmental goals (climate, biodiversity, and clean energy strategies) equally comprehensive in both approaches?
- 2- What are the differences and similarities in terms of content between their environmental objectives?
- 3- How actively are they following a process of environmental goals, especially in the post-Covid-19 period?
- 4- Can both approaches fully achieve their goals (assuming that the environmental goals are integrated with economic and social goals)?

The importance of this study can be explained by highlighting the recent international efforts towards addressing climate change, preserving biodiversity, and providing clean energy. The UN and the EU, which play leading roles in this field, have also been involved in discussions on these issues before the creation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the EGD, but it was understood from the published environmental reports that these actions were insufficient and new future strategies have been developed. Analyzing the goals of climate change, biodiversity conservation and providing accessible clean energy as set out in the UN 2030 Agenda and the EGD in terms of both content and recent developments is important due to the limited studies on this topic in literature.

The scope of this study consists of how the objectives of the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda have shaped their content since their publication, analyzing the differences between them and how they have followed the process in recent years. While conducting this analysis, it should be noted that due to the limited data available and the lack of a clear definition of the sustainability conception in, this concept will be understood in a different sense from sustainable development and will focus on the environmental component of sustainability, rather than the social and social components of development. In this context, the definition of sustainability will be based on the ability to "minimize negative environmental impacts in the long term" (Benson & Craig, 2014: 778).

There are four sections in this study. The first chapter, comprises a description of the study, introduction, the limitations of the research and the methodology. The idea of sustainability and green theory are discussed in the second chapter, which attempts to contribute the research with a conceptual and theoretical framework. The third chapter provides information about the main features of the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda, provides a general framework for analysis, and examines whether the researcher's all goals are related to each other and dependent on the achievement of other goals. The fourth section draws attention to the differences between climate action, biodiversity conservation, clean, accessible energy goals, the EGD and 2030 Agenda levels, and highlights recent processes. The study will finally examine the findings of the whole

investigation and whether it is utopian to implement both strategies in real life in the conclusion part.

1.1.METHODOLOGY

The qualitative content analysis and secondary data analysis are both combined in this study. Secondary data analysis, according to Bryman (2012), is the evaluation of data by researchers who did not initially collect the data but used it for their own research. This method commonly used in the social sciences due to its cost and time efficiency, as much as its ability to facilitate longitudinal analysis.

However, it also has some limitations, such as the complexity of data resulting from a large number of variables or respondents.

The researcher in this study examined various sources, including academic and newspaper articles, as much as primary sources such as UN SDG reports, EU annual reports, speeches, and statements. As the data analyzed is combination of primary and secondary sources, the qualitative research analysis is deemed appropriate for this study. This study employs qualitative research analysis, an inquisitive, interpretive method, and focuses on understanding the natural form of a problem in the research context (Guba and Lincoln, 1994; Klenke, 2016). Qualitative research represents a subjective-interpretive process that tries to find known and unknown problems and solve the natural events associated with the problem rationally by using qualitative data-gathering methods, including observation, conversations, and content analysis (Seale, 1999). This study, which aims to analyze the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda on the basis of sustainability, is shaped within the scope of qualitative research with the support of primary and secondary sources.

1.2. LIMITATIONS ON THE RESEARCH

International decisions, goals, and issues taken at the international level have an immeasurable scope due to the changing structure of the universal agenda. Despite a series of decisions being taken to ensure ecological balance in such a system, there are limitations on how and at what stage these decisions are implemented. For example, there is limited information on the progress levels of the SDGs in small island states and other developing countries, and discussions on this topic are ongoing. On the other hand, the uncertainty of how recent developments will play out is another limitation faced by the researchers, as data is constantly changing in an active process.

2. CHAPTER: CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: SUSTAINABILITY

2.1.1. Sustainability Conception

The sustainability is quite controversial in meaning because it has different definitions in many sources, especially the use of the same in most sources with sustainable development; the lack of a precise definition in the literature indicates a lack of knowledge on this topic and the limitations of the study. In relation to this, Holmberg & Sandbrook (1992) and Salomone (2014) suggest more than 100 definitions of sustainability.

Sustainability, which dates back to the UN conferences that took place in 1970 as a concept, emphasizes that it is a long-term ability that ensures that the negativity towards the environment is at a minimum level (Benson & Craig, 2014: 778). Additively, this issue is considered in the 1982 UN-approved World Charter for Nature, which the IUCN

put together (Singh, 2001). The declaration as mentioned above, argues that every living thing is unique and needs to be respected. The necessity of ensuring that people understand the value of natural resources for themselves and that they be used in a more planned manner is also mentioned (Phelps, 2020).

According to Yolles & Fink (2014: 1), quoting Lutz Newton & Freyfogle (2005), this concept was first used by the online version of the Oxford Dictionary in the mid-1980s. According to the aforementioned dictionary, sustainability is continuing at a particular rate or level. The idea of sustainability started to permeate our lives by enhancing its content in 1987 when the WCED report "Our Common Future" was released (UN, 2008).

The definition of sustainability is still an open subject in today's world. In the literature, sustainability is defined in a variety of ways. Because sustainability is multidimensional and can mean something different for everyone, it is possible to say that this concept, which has a dynamic structure, is constantly evolving (Şen et al. 2018: 6). For example, the lack of answers to questions such as what should be sustained, why should it be sustained, what this concept means for the country or region, and what are its basic foundations makes it challenging to understand the concept.

2.1.2. Historical Process of Sustainability

There is an opinion that the concept of sustainability emerged in a book on forest management in the early 18th century. Accordingly, the concept of sustainability Hans Carl von Carlowitz used the concept of "nachhaltigkeit" in German, which corresponds to the concept of sustainability, in his book titled *Sylvicultura Oeconomica* (1713) (Enders & Remig, 2014:1).

Von Carlowitz emphasized many issues, from the number of trees cut for timber, the suitability of the land to plant trees, and the care of seeds and saplings. In addition, von Carlowitzof trees were replanted and grown through afforestation projects, emphasizing that this should be accepted as a "motto" for modern forestry. In addition, he summarized the general rule of sustainable forest use with the following words: "uninterrupted, permanent, and sustainable use"(Vehkamäki, 2005:3).

The Club of Rome's report "Limits to Growth," which was created by a team of MIT scientists and released in 1972, demonstrated for the first time the incompatibility between unrestricted and unrestrained growth and the planet's finite resources (Meadows et al.,1972). This report drew attention to the options available to society for sustainable progress in line with environmental constraints (Meadows et al.,1972). As can be seen, the idea of sustainability has its roots in former times, despite the fact that it was not on the global agenda at the time. The emergence of this idea is the product of a long study.

2.1.2.1. Stockholm Conference

A significant event for environmental policies was the UN Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm on June 1972 (Handl, 2012: 1). Because this conference was the first big conference organized by the UN on environmental issues with the participation of world representatives (Linner & Selin, 2021).

The UN's request to host a meeting to explore environmental issues and offer solutions marked the beginning of the Stockholm Conference in Sweden in 1972 (Paglia, 2021: 2). For good measure, Sweden aimed to lay the groundwork for sustainable development through international cooperation with this proposal. As a result of the proposal, delegations from 114 governments participated in 1972 (Boudes, 2014). Thanks to this conference, many documents affecting international environmental law were created. In addition, the Stockholm Conference is vital in terms of illuminating 26 principles related to the environment (Khafagy, 2020:15678). In terms of content, principles 1 and 2 are related to intergenerational obligations, while principles 3, 5, and 6 are related to the notion of sustainable development (Lars, 1972). In addition, 11th principle, which is related to the environmental policy of the states, states the protection and development of the current or future sustainable development potential of developing countries. Principle 12 is related to the konsepte of supporting sustainable development assistance; with this principle, donors can allocate additional funds to their development aid budgets for environmental protection measures. Principle 21 also discussed the obligations that states have to other states, with this principle, states are also free to exploit their own resources

in conformance with their environmental legislation while talking about the obligation to make sure that other states and regions outside of the national jurisdiction don't damage their environment (UNEP, 1972). The World Conservation Strategies (1980), the suggestions determined in Stockholm were accepted as necessary in sense of sustainable development idea, and further expansion studies were carried out (Drexhage & Murphy, 2010:7).

2.1.2.2. 1987: Brundtland Report

Environmental issues had developed into a situation that required resolution by the 1980s. Accordingly, the UN General Assembly mandated in 1983 that the Secretary-General be tasked with creating the WCED (Brundtland, 1985). In 1987, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who was the Prime Minister of Norway at the time, called the "Our Common Future" report (Uslu, 1991:20).

This report emphasized adverse effects of people on the world and the damage they cause to the environment. With the publication of this report, Our Common Future, approved by the UN, a new discussion topic surrounding sustainable development among industrialized and developing nations and other international organizations emerged (UN, 2008). The report's discussion on sustainable development was based on a model. According to the report, this model can only be achieved by ensuring the balance between nature and development. While maintaining this balance, it advocates a long-term sustainable economic development based on practices that use the economy and nature without consuming them (Kıslalıoğlu & Berkes, 1990:238). In short, it is possible to say that the Brundtland Report is a summary that states that sustainability is possible in many ways and that there are innovations and various ways to achieve this (Lipseý et al., 2018:356).

2.1.2.3. 1992 Rio Conference

Based on belief that Stockholm Conference and the Brundtland Report were inadequate in terms of theory and scope over time, another conference centered on the idea of sustainability was organized in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the name UNCED (CBD, 2006). A total of 178 countries participated in this conference; this participation went down in history as the world summit with the most participation at the international level (Britannica, 2022). The Rio Conference is often referred to as the Earth Summit (Akgül, 2010:137). The World Summit led to the release of Agenda 21. This document's core message sustainable development has been acknowledged as the shared objective of all people in the twenty-first century (Bigg & Dodds, 2019:22).

This action plan, which started with the phrase "Humanity is at a turning point", consists of principles aiming at the realization of the environment and development goals from the 1990s to the 2000s. Mainly consisting of 4 main parts, Agenda 21 focuses on the economic and social dimensions by emphasizing international cooperation in the first part. In contrast, in the second part, many areas, such as the protection of natural resources, the prevention of desertification, and the efficient use of lands, are included. In the third part, it was mentioned that the areas of activity of communities, local governments, women, and children should be increased. Finally, general implementation strategies are mentioned in the fourth and last part, and a sub-title is added to it. In addition, references are made to areas related to finance, science, international cooperation, legal instruments, etc. (Linner & Selin, 2013).

2.1.2.4. Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol, which is an treaty to shape policies on climate change, was signed in 1997 as a result of negotiations that lasted for two and a half years and entered into force in 2005 (Kim et al., 2020). KP is the binding document to impose obligations on greenhouse gas reductions on industrial countries (European Commission, 2008). This rate predicted for developed countries (Annex 1) in the KP was determined as 8% for EU countries, 7% for the USA, and 6% for Japan (Duru, 2014:316).

Due to the abstention and indifference of countries like Russia and the US in forming and implementing the KP, the EU had to take the global lead. This is because the

EU was able to ensure that the Protocol remained in force by putting much effort into the process (Cass, 2006:205-213).

KP's initial commitment period spans the years 2008 through 2012, in this process, the EU's total emissions decreased by 19.8% (European Commission, 2014: 11). During the first commitment period, the EU also published a Strategy Document (2009). This document states that ANNEX-1 and EU candidate countries should make emission limitation and reduction commitments. In addition, in this period, the European Trading System, which plays an essential function in the EU's reaching goals of Kyoto Protocol, has been acted upon. Established in 2003, the system operating with the purchase or sale of quota in the market consisting of ETS enterprises is the most cost-effective tool for reducing emissions (Karakaya & Yılmaz, 2016: 135). It is aimed at achieving emission reduction at the least cost possible.

Considering the primary targets determined by the EU, a new target of 20% determined since 1990 within the scope of the Protocol in the post-2012 period, and this target is an official decision within the Union. In addition, the EU also asked International actors to participate in the fight by fulfilling their responsibilities. In this context, the EU expects development to reduce emissions by more than 30% by 2020 (Groen et al., 2012: 179). Another area that the EU has put on the agenda after 2012 is the inclusion of maritime transport and international transport in the international arena (International Carbon Action Partnership, 2014).

The achievements of the EU, which is leading the way in implementing the Kyoto Protocol, cannot be ignored. This struggle of the EU has led it to be ahead of other countries both in implementing climate policies and in taking responsibility (Arı, 2021: 387).

2.1.2.5. Johannesburg Summit- Rio+10

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, hosted in Johannesburg, sought to address the challenges encountered in implementing the choices made at the Rio Conference (Çevre, U., & Programı, K., 2004). The Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development were issued in order to continue the execution of Agenda 21 activities

(Idowu, 2015). The 11th article of the declaration basically emphasizes the shared duty of the nations to guarantee sustainable development at provincial, local, and international scales as well as commitments for environmental conservation; in this article, the main targets for sustainable development are combatting poverty, altering consumer and producing habits, and managing social and economic advancement based on natural resources. (UN Report, 2002:30). Some parts of the Johannesburg Implementation Plan are as follows: an introduction; eradicating poverty, altering unsustainable habits of consumption and production; sustainable growth and globalization; conserving and managing natural resources for social and economic evolvement; health and sustainable development, it has eleven chapters, which cover institutional frameworks, implementation tools, and sustainable development projects. (UN Report 2002).

2.1.2.6. Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, signed in 2016, is a binding agreement that led to significant developments regarding climate change in terms of scope. This agreement, which was accepted with the approval of 195 countries, focused on the problems arising as a result of the increase in GHG emissions and put forward a solution plan for these problems (Öztürk, 2019: 536-537).

The viewpoint of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities was adopted under the agreement (UN, 2015a). This is because the purpose of this agreement was to ensure that all countries take action against climate change. The accord states that the global temperature rise should not exceed 2°C, or even 1.5°C. (UN, 2015a).

The EU made significant contributions in drafting the technical documents and formatting the agreement's text (European Commission, 2015). In addition, thanks to the EU, a consensus has been reached to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030. For these, the EU commission considers this role in the Paris Agreement as a political success (Keskin and Kökyay, 2020: 334). To reach this agreement to keep the rise in global temperatures below 2°C or even to 1.5°C, the EU has been negotiating with the US and China. In addition, the EU, which is cooperating with China on carbon issues, has been working

with the US on reporting and transparency measures, it is a fact that the EU is in a key position at this point (Parker, et al., 2017: 249-250).

2.2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: THE GREEN THEORY

2.2.1. Definition of The Green Theory

After WWII, with the acceleration of economic growth and population growth in the 1960s, environmental pollution and consumption increased, and new sources were needed. In the 1970s, international cooperation on environmental pollution, which could no longer be ignored, increased, and the issue of the environment was placed on the agenda of international relations. The green theory, which is new compared to other international relations, has emerged with the environmental issue, which is on the agenda of international relations. According to the green theory, environmental problems are transboundary problems, and environmental events occurring in other countries also concern neighboring countries, so environmental problems should go beyond a narrow understanding (Paterson, 2012:342). Since adopting a cross-border approach to environmental awareness and environmental management will result in the formation of new international institutions, organizations, and regimes in the field of environment and ecosystem, this theory's most important role in international relations is to highlight these positive effects (Ari, 2018:621).

The green theory, which develops the basic concepts of International Relations from an ecological perspective, argues that the normative imperative in idealism is the main motive in green politics and that the explanation of environmental destruction comes after it (Paterson, 2012:368). Although these explanations advocated by the green theory put them in similar areas with the Postpositivist theories, they differ from the Critical and Postpositivist theories that deal with the liberation of human beings on the subject of "environment" (Erçandırılı, 2021:530). Because green theory is a critical theory that focuses on the environment, not the human or state. As Dyer notes (2017: 84), human

interests as the concept of international relations or the interests of the environment instead of people-orientedness is the origin of the green theory, which has worries about the environment. In addition, the Green theory, which deals with environmental problems with a critical perspective, follows a path from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism, as Eckersley stated (1992: 33), and offers different views on this issue.

On the other hand, the green theory, which combines normative and empirical scientific elements with international relations theories, differs from other theories in this respect. In addition, the green theory, which makes normative explanations on issues such as green democracy and global justice, is accepted as an explanatory theory in this respect (Paterson, 2012: 341-367). Among the ideas he put forward, high politics, which are in direct proportion with the interests of the state, and low politics, which are not vital for the interests of the state, coexist in green theory (Ünal, 2014:229). Therefore, it is important in terms of serving as a bridge between the two.

2.2.2. Emergence of The Green Theory

Increasing environmental pollution with the outbreak of the Industrial Revolution, which started in the 1760s and then put all of Europe into industrialization, later became a serious issue to be solved with increased economic competition after WWII (Eckersley, 2016: 290).

In both developments, the progress of economic races with a negative effect on environmental problems around the world made inroads into the rising of green theory over time. Environmental movements have begun to emerge that drew attention to the accelerating environmental pollution and the growing divide between humans and nature in the second half of the 20th century (Eckersley, 2016:259). In this context, the 1960s and 1970s were when discussions on growth limits emerged with the rapid advancement of technology, and environmental concerns for economic development were expressed (Steans et al., 2013:206).

It is possible to say that environmental problems were brought to the international agenda in the 1990s. Due to the rising global warming problem in the 1990s, different

from the previous environmental negotiations, serious obligations began to be imposed on the states. The destruction of forest areas, the ozone layer's thinning, the decrease in biodiversity and the resulting climate change have led not only global politics to be questioned but also international relations disciplines themselves, within this framework, after 1990, green theory began to establish itself as a new political tradition in international relations theories, having previously was used to express environmental issues up to the early 1990s (Erçandırılı et al., 2021:532).

The green theory, which previously appeared mainly as a criticism of both Soviet-style communism and western capitalism, has come closer to the definition of international relations theory with the issues it deals with after the 1990s (Eckersley, 2016:263).

2.2.3. The Role of Green Theory in International Relations

The green theory was not brought to the fore by green theorists for the first time, especially international relations theories such as classical realism and neo-liberal institutionalism. However, they did not centralize environmental problems and were interested in this issue at different levels (Erçandırılı, 2021:533-534). In addition, according to Arı (2018:627), green theory has several similarities with other international relations theories; critical, normative, and interdisciplinary are some of these features. For example, green theory has also been interpreted as a sub-branch of normative theory due to areas of thought such as green democracy and environmental justice (Arı, 2018:628).

According to Erckersley, green theory essentially started from the criticism of mainstream rational approaches (neorealism, neoliberalism) and, inspired by neo-Marxists, addressed the theories of international relations from a critical perspective by considering solution options for global ecological problems such as International Political Economy (UPE)(Erckersley,2016:289).

2.2.3.1. Realism and Green Theory

Environmental issues in realism are mostly shaped within the framework of securitizing the environment. Because according to realists, political and minimum issues

are the most important issues to ensure security and power. Issues related to national security are high politics; Issues related to the nation's welfare are classified as low politics. Therefore, in realism, environmental issues are considered within the scope of low politics as long as they do not directly impact safety. This is why realists tend not to cooperate internationally unless there is a threat (Ünal,2014:234).

Hans Morgenthau, one of the fathers of realism, argues that natural resources should be used for industrial development and wars as a source of money (Morgenthau, 1948:83). With this in mind, Morgenthau looks at environmental issues as "tools" that benefit the state. Because according to realism, nature is a tool to contribute to the country's interests and is not more important than power and security(Eckersley, 2004: 249-250).Hobbesian understanding, on the other hand, sees the environment as an inevitable tool "for the survival of the strongest" as it causes conflict and negativity(Hobbes,1999).

On the other hand, Garrett Hardlin's 'Tragedy of Commons', published in 1968, is an important source dealing with the realists' view of the environment. In this book, Hardlin mentioned that any state in the world would want to use the natural resources in the world more for their own interests by acting with the structural instinct of the states, and as a result, a disaster may occur for the environment(Art & Jervis, 2007:495-500). Even though Hardlin argues that international cooperation is required to preserve the nature, he does not believe it is achievable since governments are distrusted, and their own interests come before those of others (Erçandırılı, 2014;499). Due to this understanding of realism against nature, it is criticized by the green theory. Because realists approach the environment within the framework of securitization. Regarding this, Deudney (1999:214) criticizes this attitude of realism in his work "Environmental Security: A Critique."In this study, Deudney states that environmental issues should be separated from security issues, which are different. Because environmental issues are national, they are not internally derived regional issues like security issues; moreover, while security issues are only national, environmental issues are considered international issues (Dalby, 2008:266).

2.2.3.2. Neoliberal Institutionalism and Green Theory

Realists argue that economic-based problems related to the environment will lead to conflicts between states and it is very difficult to cooperate on environmental issues at the international level due to the uncertainty of how to deal with these problems (Heywood, 2013: 455). However, unlike Realists, Neoliberal Institutionalism, which emphasizes interstate institutionalization and the effects of regimes, draws attention to two aspects: being individualist and taking scientific and rationality as a basis. Just like realism, this theory, which emphasizes the interests and superiority of human beings against nature, is based on individualism like Liberalism. For this reason, they look at nature instrumentally, like Realists. In this respect, they see the resources that provide the needs of individuals, not based on state security or power, as a value used for humanitarian purposes. The fact that they are based on science and rationality, their second important feature, causes those who support this approach to adopt a problem-solving approach toward nature (Heywood, 2013: 455). Three fundamental methods to preserve of the environment have been put forth by neoliberal institutionalists: build international institutions to execute environmental capitalism; technologically sensitize the environment, and foster greater interstate collaboration (Erçandırılı, 2014: 501). Neoliberalists, who first discussed the issue over the economy and the market, argued that environmental problems hinder the development of the economy. In this context, environmental problems should be taken into account for the recovery of the economy and environmental capitalism should be applied. According to environmental capitalism, whichever institution, organization or company pollutes the environment more, environmental pollution should be reduced by taxation. The second solution is to reduce the use of coal, which is very harmful to the environment, and to harmonize the studies in this field with the developing technology. Finally, neoliberal theorists who accept environmental problems as global problems emphasize interstate activities' importance in solving this problem. They suggest that international regimes and regulations should be established by establishing international organizations to solve environmental problems (Heywood, 2013: 455).

As a result, the two dominant theories of International relations, Realism and Neoliberalism, tend to approach environmental issues as new problem areas. They see environmental issues as a set of problems to be resolved within their own theory rather than as a new analytical and/or normative challenge(Erçandırılı et al., 2021:538).Although neoliberal theorists emphasize international cooperation, according to green theory, international regimes are not designed to explain global environmental problems (Paterson, 2000).

3. CHAPTER: OUTLINE OF THE EGD AND UN 2030 AGENDA

3.1. THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The goal of EGD is to create a just society with zero emissions, efficient resource use, and a competitive economy by 2050 (European Commission 2019b). The EGD is a method created to reorganize the international trade system and the areas that affect climate change worldwide; it is a holistic system and aims to reorder existing systems (Küçük & Dural, 2022). The EGD was organized to shape new-generation trade, industry, and industrial methods (Yeldan et al., 2020).

The EGD goals include both short-term and long-term aims. The long-term objective is to attain zero emissions by 2050, while the short-term objective is to cut GHG emissions by 55% from 1990 levels by 2030(European Commission 2019b). EGD will be supported during this period under four key components. These include providing funding, setting current targets, creating plans and goals that cover all countries and keep them from being behind and increasing adaptive capacity.

There are eight various areas of action in developing methods, even if the EGD is mostly emphasized in the industry field; these include climate, regional development,

energy, transportation, and finance as well as research, industry, and the environment. (Sikora, 2021: 682).

Research and Innovation: To make the transformation that the EGD is trying to realize even faster, it is imperative to participate in innovation in disseminating the solutions created. 35% of the budget of "Horizon Europe," which is stated as the research program of the EU, is used to solve climate change problems (Horizon Europe, 2023).

Climate: By the year 2050, Europe intends to achieve climate neutrality. The "European Climate Law," which will be obligatory on member nations, is expected to assist member nations achieve net ghgs reductions (European Parliament, 2021a).

Industry: In order to leverage sustainable items, low-emission technology and activities to attain climate neutrality by 2050, the EGD is considered that the significant potential can be exploited (European Commission, 2019c).

Environment: In order to preserve the environment, which is known as the source of economic and natural wealth for Europe, it is necessary to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, reduce pollution, realize the transition to the mentioned circular economy as soon as possible, and improve waste management systems (European Commission, 2019d). In light of this, the EGD stated that in order to boost carbon dioxide absorption and strengthen the environment's resistance to the effects of climate change, Europe's forests, wetlands, and peatlands must be restored. (Wild et al., 2020:47).

Energy: 3 principles are taken as the basis for the EGD's clean energy transition, ensuring that the EU's energy is clean in terms of carbon content. These concepts are: Priority is given to improving energy-efficiency in buildings and, generally, creating an energy sector through the use of renewable sources, in addition to being accessible and secure, interconnected and completely integrated power marketplaces, and clean energy (European Commission, 2019e). Upgrading renewable energy resource rates by up to 40% is necessary to carry out the actions outlined for lowering energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions in the EU's power mix by 2030; therefore, unlike the situation of energy consumption by 36%, it is planned to be reduced (European Commission, 2021b).

Transportation: The EGD noted that the transportation sector is responsible for around 25% of the EU's overall GHG emissions (European Commission, 2021c). In this

context, the widespread use of sustainable vehicles (electric vehicles, etc.) and the reduction of 55% by 2030, as well as the realization of the use of new vehicles with zero emissions by 2035 and, accordingly, the presence of charging stations for recharging electric vehicles on highways, air, and maritime transport are encouraged to use sustainable fuels (European Commission, 2021c).

Finance and Regional Development: In order to accomplish the objectives set forth by the EGD, the European Commission is developing a finance plan of at least 1 trillion euros to promote sustainable investment over the next ten years (European Commission, 2020a).

The EGD is a growth plan that intends to create the EU a just and wealthy society with a cutting-edge, competitive economy in which there will be no net GHG emissions and resource utilization for economic growth will be segregated (Sabato et al., 2021:24). The deal's primary purpose is to carry out the Paris Agreement's purposes and accomplish a comprehensive transformation in terms of economic and social issues (Sikora, 2021:683).

Global cooperation and efforts are needed to achieve environmental goals. For cooperation to be realized, the EU must mobilize the international community in line with the goals. Moreover, in the new economy, it is necessary to use the Union's influence, expertise, and financial resources to ensure that neighboring countries and strategic partners are on the EU's side. To put environmental and climatic challenges at the forefront of its international relations, the EU, as a global leader, aims to collaborate with African and G20 nations, which together produce 80% of the world's GHG emissions; in addition, as part of its Southern Neighborhood and Eastern Partnership programs, it aims to coordinate green accords across the regions and values shared by Asia, South America, and the Pacific (OECD & UNDP, 2019). On the other hand, when evaluated on a local scale, the "Green Deal Going Local" working group was formed under the leadership of the European Committee of Regions. In addition to the EGD, the said group studies to make the "Recovery Plan for Europe" concrete projects and to provide direct financial support for regional and local governments (García et al., 2021:4). In this case, it is about pooling the ideas of cities and regions in line with the policies included in the EGD,

informing the EU, and facilitating the cooperation of EU institutions with the necessary sectors to achieve the climate-neutral goal.

On the other hand, A "Just Transition Mechanism" is being built in order to financially support the passing to a carbon-neutral economy so that the impact on the economy and society can be reduced and no one is left behind (Sarkki, 2022:762). However, achieving this just transition is thought to be politically challenging and economically costly for the EU (Skjærseth, 2021:31). Therefore, the most challenging part for the European Commission is convincing Europe to the green. In addition to this situation, it is still dependent on coal from coal mines and future revenues, like the Western and Northern European countries and Poland, which are the most affected by the situations caused by climate change and therefore depend heavily on the climate policy of the EGD. Due to this situation, it is challenging for the European Commission to gather the EU members to a common point by doubting the complete elimination of carbon emissions transformation. Aware of this situation, the Commission's chairman aims to create different employment areas based on not leaving anyone behind (Politico, 2020).

One of the essential tools for realizing EGD, which is determined as a new growth strategy, is the creation of a circular and clean economy. In this context, the European Commission presented the Circular Economy Action Plan in 2020. In addition, there may be many measures such as longer product life, recyclable, repairable, and multi-use products (European Parliament, 2022a). In addition to the measures that can be taken in different areas, the EU is transitioning to the circular economy model, leaving unsustainable production methods behind. In addition to economic development, it aims to meet people's modern needs with less resource use and as little waste production as possible. Furthermore, it envisages the protection of the ecological structure by enabling people to prefer recyclable and long-term useable products and to combat the negative factors that may be caused by the waste generated.

The EU creates a new system to support EGD in each period. To this end, in 2021, the EU launched the New European Bauhaus initiative. Within the framework of this

initiative, the aim is to involve EGD in people's lives and dream of a sustainable, beautiful, and comprehensive future through a joint effort in their souls and minds.

3.1.1. The EGDIP and The JTM

While creating the EGD, a fair transformation that does not leave anyone behind aims; therefore, the "Just Transition Mechanism" was created in this framework, an essential tool for transitioning to a green economy (Schröder, 2020:12). Furthermore, To aid the implementation of this strategy, the European Green Deal Investment Plan has been formed; the EGDIP is responsible for the investment part of the EGD and is very important for a sustainable Europe. This is because to make the goals set in the EGD a reality, resources must be created, and funding must be made available to the EU (Claeys et al., 2019:10). This plan, prepared by the European Commission, emphasizes that the EU must invest 260 billion euros each year to achieve the goals set by 2030(European Commission, 2020b). This plan objectives to allow the transition to a green financial system in specific levels. These can be listed as follows (Claeys et al., 2019:8):

- To mobilize at least 1 trillion investments in ten years with the EU budget,
- To provide a safe and favorable environment for the private and public sectors,
- To give priority to sustainable projects and to support public administrations in structuring sustainable projects.

The main purpose of the JTM is to mitigate the socioeconomic obligations to be met under the climate-neutral target. A fund of at minimum one hundred billion euros is projected to be allocated among 2021 and 2027 to make this mechanism effective (Cameron et al., 2020:39). So, it was created to support the people who work in the fossil fuel chain, etc. This mechanism has three primary sources of funding. These(European Commission, 2020c);

- A new EU fund of 7.5 billion euros,
- 45 billion euro investment for the Just Transition Scheme, specially created by InvestEU,

-Consists of public sector loans for investments between 25 and 30 billion with the European Investment Bank.

First, the member states will benefit from the Just Transition fund provided within the scope of the Commission's long-term EU budget. Countries benefiting from this fund must match every euro from the Just Transition Fund with the European Social Fund Plus and regional development (Özenç, 2022:29). In addition, these countries have to promise to provide additional national resources. The obtained resources will also be combined with national co-financing in accordance with cohesion policies. As a result, more investment will be obtained to provide a Europe. Furthermore, this fund will provide grants to regions connected to the fossil fuel supply chain, such as coal and oil (Küçük & Dural 2022:145).

In addition to the Just Transition Fund, the financing provided by InvestEU is mainly aimed at attracting private investment. The Just Transition Scheme to be created by InvestEU has set an investment target of up to 45 billion euros. Up to €1.8 billion will be made available from the EU budget for this program(UİB, 2020:4) This program will support sustainable energy, transport, and social infrastructure projects for transition regions. In this way, sustainable investment areas will be supported. In addition, this program will create a system to help transition regions find new resources for the economy in transition regions.

Another critical source of funding, the European Investment Bank, falls within the realm of government bonds (European Investment Bank, 2022).This funding addresses issues such as the renovation of buildings, etc. Again, this credit facility is supported by the EU budget.

The JTM, created to adequately meet countries' responsibilities under carbon neutrality, will allow them to complete their allocations to socioeconomically impacted regions. Because although climate-neutral plans are made for the future, not all member states can start this transition from the same point.

3.1.2. The Circular Economy Action Plan

The EGD content emphasized the need for action from all industry sectors to meet the crucial goals of climate neutrality (European Commission, 2019f). The Circular Economy Action Plan, signed in March 2020, created a roadmap to meet these goals. Transforming the economy to a green future through the actions outlined in this plan, presented as part of the EU Industrial Strategy, was the central theme. Furthermore, while the industry's capacity is increasing, the protection of the environment and the goal of providing new benefits to consumers are other essential points of the plan (Veral, 2018:466).

With this plan, several critical initiatives are expected to be implemented in the name of sustainability. For example, ambitious decisions will be made to reshape product design and change the sustainability grid (Fitch-Roy et al., 2020:996). In addition, implementing the new Circular Economy is expected to create new jobs and give consumers new rights (Wijkman & Skanberg, 2015). In terms of content, many measures have been taken as part of this plan. One of these measures relates to the use of sustainable products. This is because, in order to achieve a recycling industry, things should be reusable, easily repaired, and created from recyclable raw materials (Keleş, 2021). Accordingly, in this plan, it is planned to make legal arrangements regarding the Sustainable Product Policy (EEB, 2020:2). In this context, it is planned to destroy durable products that are not sold and recyclable and to limit single-use products.

Another measure included in the plan is consumer empowerment (Veral, 2021:10). The goal is to encourage consumers to make sustainable choices by providing accurate information. Another recommendation highlights the need to focus on areas with high circular economy potential concrete actions to be launched; in this context are planned in many sectors, for instance: packaging, construction, buildings, plastics, electronics and information technology (OECD, 2021:7).

However, it is true to argue that adopting the this plan in EU is a difficult task in practice. Because the EU's economy is linear and only 12% of the economy's structure is transformable (Keleş, 2021). Accordingly, it is obvious that the 2050 climate-neutral target can only be achieved if a circular economy is achieved.

3.1.3. The European Climate Law

Following the EGD, the EU recognized the need for a climate legislation to provide a fair transition and a secure environment for investors, as well as to enable a carbon-neutral, green, and social life. The European Commission prepared a suggestion for a climate legislation in accordance with the Paris Agreement in this regard (Güner et al., 2021:129). The EU prepared its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and submitted its first climate law proposal to the UNFCCC in March 2020(EU2020 ,2020). It can be said that this statute was designed in accordance with Article 191 of the TFEU(Missonne, 2015). This is because this article states that the EU has the power to promote international action and to reduce the overuse of resources, regional and environmental issues, and, in especially, global warming.

On the other hand, there are certain reasons why this proposal for a climate law has been enacted as regulations. First of all, this regulation allows the EU to impose certain conditions on Member States to achieve ambitious targets. Moreover, this regulation can be defined more as a legal norm, as it regulates responsibilities (reporting, assessment, recommendations, etc.) at the Union level rather than at the country level. This regulation also contains the authorization provisions of the European Environment Agency (Eren, 2021:224).

The primary purpose of this regulation is to attain carbon neutrality by 2050. This goal can only be achieved through a joint effort at the Union level. In this context, it is envisaged that the adoption of measures in line with the notion of subsidiarity will facilitate the achievement of the envisaged objective (Peters, 2019:138). Moreover, within the framework of the principle of proportionality, it has been considered a must not go beyond the measures to be taken in view of these objectives and, if necessary, to be supported by national policies at the Union stage in order to carry out the objective(Eren, 2021:225).

Even if it is not legally bound, climate law is a key element for the EGD. Because achieving the "climate-neutral" target can only be achieved if states are clear about their obligations in all areas. Following the Leaders' Summit on 11-12 December, the European

Council agreed on a general approach to the Climate Law on December 17, 2020(European Council, 2020). The updated 2030 climate targets are also expected to be included in the Climate Law.

3.2. THE UN 2030 AGENDA

3.2.1. Preparation Period of The UN 2030 Agenda

At the Rio Conference, it was determined to launch an intergovernmental process that is accessible to all partners, thorough, and transparent in order to formulate the General Assembly-approved worldwide sustainable development objectives(Tüzel, 2021:461). Emphasis is placed on this process in paragraphs 248 and 249 of the Future We Want Report. Accordingly, (i) the creation of a working group of 30 representatives to be appointed by the member states in the five regional groups of the UN with the aim of fair, equitable, and balanced geographical representation; (ii) To provide a richness of perspective, it was stated that the experiences of the relevant stakeholders, civil society, scientific circles, and the UN system should be included in the studies (Tüzel, 2021:461). During a 3-year working period, the Board met with academia, civil society, the private sector, and relevant experts and during the 3-year working period in which the development goals were established, representatives of non-governmental organizations, especially women's organizations, formed coalitions and actively participated in discussions on 17 different thematic areas (Ravazi, 2016; Esquivel, 2016).

One of the indicators of the collective understanding followed during the enhancement of the SDGs is "Myworld" initiative. Myworld is a common communication channel where people worldwide can share their views on development priorities. MYWorld survey, accessed at <https://myworld2030.org> and applied via online and offline tools, was created to make their voices heard directly in policy-making processes at the world stage during the advancement of the SDGs. The survey revealed that such engagement is "both possible and beneficial," as the web page states. The vast

majority of these individuals are under 30 years old, it also means that young people can have a sense of ownership and should play a role in joint efforts to achieve a more sustainable world (Hwang & Kim, 2017: 23). The next phase of the initiative, MyWorld 2030, this time offers an opportunity to highlight the real impact of the SDGs on people's lives. While its representation is questionable, one wonders how the survey results differ from the states' reports(Tüzel, 2021:462).

3.2.2. The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Developments Goals

The concept of sustainability is included in many subjects such as health, economy and environment (Peşkircioğlu, 2016). The emergence of the 2030 SDGs dates back to the Millennium Summit in 2000. Within the scope of the said development goals, 17 targets have been determined (UN, 2015). Cooperation in many areas is required in order to succeed in these aims. Local, central, civic communities or private spaces must cooperate (Tüzel, 2018: 15-19). All of the goals set in this regard are interconnected. The purpose of these goals is to leave a good life for future generations (UN, 2015).

The 17 objects in question are given in Figure 1 with their symbols, colors and item numbers;



Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015).

Some of the 17 determined targets can be specified as follows;

SDG 1 No Poverty:Ending all Forms of poverty everywhere. 7 sub-targets were determined for the poverty alleviation plan, which was stated as the first goal (UN,2015);

- Ending poverty for people who earn less than \$1.90 a day and those considered very poor,
- To at least halve the proportion of people included in the concept of poverty defined nationally,
- Providing nationally appropriate safe social spaces for individuals from all walks of life,
- Ensuring all humanity has equal rights to access all kinds of economic opportunities,
- Ensuring the resilience of the poor human community, taking precautions against environmental, economic, social, and possible disasters,
- Ensuring further cooperation to end poverty in developing or underdeveloped countries,
- To organize gender-related, national, and international policies to accelerate the investment needed to eliminate the problem above.

SDG 2 Zero Hunger: Hunger, malnutrition emerge as an anti-development problem in many countries. SDG aims to eliminate the problem of malnutrition and hunger by 2030. In addition, it is aimed that all communities have the necessary nutritional conditions throughout their lives. Sustainable agriculture, support for farmers, equitable access to conditions for land, technology and market are aimed.

In Goal 2, there are eight sub-plans planned until 2030 (UN,2015);

- To ensure that people from all walks of life, especially infants, have access to necessary and nutritious food,
- In addition to solving the problem of complete malnutrition, especially for children younger than five years old, this problem also needs to be solved for pregnant, lactating women, and the elderly. This solution must have been realized worldwide.

- Ensuring equal and safe access to all resources, information, and financial needs of communities such as local communities, women, and farmers,
- To eliminate the commercial problems in these markets, in a way to eliminate the negativities in the world's agricultural markets,
- Carrying out agricultural actions that support the protection of ecosystems and that can withstand climate change, natural disasters, and adverse conditions in order to regulate sustainable food production systems.
- Rural infrastructure, research on agriculture, training and technology development for farmers, investing in animal and plant gene banks for sustainability,
- Conservation of genetic diversity in gene banks for plants and animals,
- Following the correctness of the food product market and providing access to market information in the required time frame.

SDG3 Good Health and Well-Being: It stated that achieving the goal of health security, health, and quality of life provided worldwide is very important for ending poverty and reducing the usual inequality rate. However, precautions should also be taken for diseases not clearly stated in the SDGs. Nevertheless, around the world, it strives to reach only the health issues specified in the SDGs. The reason for this situation is the irregularity within the countries. While some countries have made great progress, it is stated that the majorities are left behind when looking at the national averages.

In line with this target, 13 sub-targets were determined (UN,2015);

- Reducing maternal mortality rate worldwide,
- Reduce the mortality rates of infants and children under the age of five in all nations,
- Struggling with all infectious and neglected diseases,
- Reducing the number of early deaths from noncommunicable disorders and diverting them toward psychological health protection,
- Preventing substance addictions and making treatments more powerful,
- Including family planning and reproductive health in national programs and ensuring that sexual health is accessible worldwide,

- Providing health insurance for people from all walks of life to access quality primary health care services,
- Reducing mortality rates caused by air, water, soil, and dangerous substances,
- The WHO's control of tobacco in all countries,
- Ensuring access to necessary medicines by paying particular attention to diseases affecting developing countries,
- Increasing the workforce provided for health and ensuring its development in all aspects, and this increase can be achieved within the least developed or developing countries,
- Providing early warning, ensuring national and worldwide health risk management,
- Reducing deaths from traffic accidents globally.

SDG 13 Climate Action: The presence of global warming affects the climate balance to a large extent and for a long time. If no action is taken, unsolved dangers will negatively affect the world. Developing nations are expected to address climate change and assist initiatives toward low-carbon growth. Supporting vulnerable areas positively affects all SDGs. In providing the said support, precautions for possible disasters, sustainable natural resources management, and the safety of living things should be prioritized. To achieve this goal, a collective implementation must make as soon as possible. Sub-titles for climate action can be listed as follows (UN, 2015).

- Adapting to adverse climate-related conditions around the world and increasing resilience,
- Measures were taken against climate change; to be included in all national planning,
- Preventing climate change, adapting to this situation, and raising awareness about the problem should be ensured.
- Directing the implementation of plans and management to include those living in underdeveloped and developing countries in the process,
- Provide funding for studies to minimize the pollution that causes runaway climate change and ensure that UNFCCC member states live up to their pledges.

SDG 17: Revitalizing Global Partnerships

This is a stated aim to support national plans. It constitutes a component to reach the trading system based on universal rules. For this purpose, there are 19 sub-targets under 5 headings. (UN, 2015):

Finance

- Ensuring local resource increase,
- Developed countries provide support to developing and underdeveloped countries,
- Providing additional finance to developing countries,
- Regulating the debts of developing countries,
- Determining investment policies for least developed countries,

Technology

- To increase information sharing worldwide,
- Promoting the use of environmentally friendly technologies in underdeveloped nations,
- To increase the use of technologies that make life easier,

Capacity Increase

- Ensuring that the applications of developing countries towards SDGs are increased by increasing cooperation within the scope of many issues,

Trade

- Providing universal, principles-based and equitable trade,
 - Ensuring that countries have access to the market, as well as ensuring that the import agreements are transparent and simple,
 - Ensuring the doubling of the global export share,
- Systematic issues: multifaceted collaborations, data monitoring and accountability,
- Increasing macroeconomic stability,
 - Coherence of policy for sustainable development,

- Providing support in all dimensions for developing countries to realize SDGs,
- Orientation towards joint studies,
- Ensuring statistical capacity development in developing countries,
- Supporting developing countries for the collection of high quality and reliable data.

3.2.3. The Qualifications of Sustainable Developments Goals

The 2030 Agenda consists of 17 main and 169 sub-goals. It is handled based on the idea of a common interest in the relationship between the worldwide needs. The issues that incorporate the main lines of the SDGs , which determine the 15-year process determined worldwide, can be listed as follows (UN, 2015);

- Fight against poverty and hunger,
- Ensuring the sustainability of natural resources,
- Based on a worldview that respects human rights and offers social wellbeing,
- A way of life free of fear and violence in order to achieve world-wide peace,
- Collaborative work carried out worldwide to achieve these criteria.

The specified framework forms the basis of a holistic thinking development model that covers all subjects. 2030 Agenda; It is based on the results of many conferences and meetings, such as Rio+20, which are platforms for action. Sustainable Development Goals; In line with the decisions taken, it is solution-oriented, activity-oriented, and easy to understand.

Understanding the closely related and integrated structure of sustainable development goals and revealing the related areas vary according to which strategy and what kind of reading is made, and various classifications emerge. In a reading starting from the beginning of human development and sustainable development, three main issues take priority(Tüzel, 2021):

1. Intergenerational justice, young participation, future generations' rights
2. Equality for women and the empowerment of women
3. Obtain to natural resources and living in a good and safe environment.

4. CHAPTER: ANALYZING OF THE EGD AND UN 2030 AGENDA ON THE BASIS OF SUSTAINABILITY

4.1. SYNERGY BETWEEN EGD AND UN 2030 AGENDA

It has been realized how crucial it is to maintain sustainability throughout the Covid-19 epidemic, to implement the targets set for the future in this regard, and to be cautious against the next "disasters". As we have examined from the above titles, the EU and UN have prepared a number of plans to create a "sustainable" future from the past to the present, and with these regulations, the responsibilities and obligations of the countries have been reevaluated.

In the extent of the environmental dimension of sustainability, many issues such as the clean energy, access to clean water, combating climate change and the protection of biodiversity have been discussed in various conferences and documents by both organizations. For this reason, sustainable development is one of the EU's fundamental values, and the EU has an influence on the presentation and shaping of 17 sdgs under the 2030 UN Agenda in 2015. (European Commission, 2015). (European Commission, 2015). Following the release UN 2030 Agenda was published, the EC presented three policies for the execution of SDGs between 2014-2019: Next steps for a sustainable European future, Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030, and European Consensus on Development (Rijnhout et al., 2018). These policies that are presented, it is an indication that the EU has made a future plan that it should adhere to the UN 2030 Agenda.

According to von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, the SDGs are central for establishing both domestic and foreign policy. As a result, Leyen presented numerous notable policies in this area, including the EGD, the Climate Law, and growth strategies to maintain sustainability in the EU and other nations. In this regard, SDGs are integrated into all commission proposals and strategies of the President. Also, they are in

the UN SDGs von der Leyen's Political Guidelines (2019-2024), which are gathered under 17 titles. The Commission's holistic approach to sustainability aims to make tangible progress in the topics of the SDGs. In order to realize this tangible progress, the European Council has called on the European Parliament and the Council to prepare a strategy to carry out the SDGs (European Commission, 2020c:3).

With the new Commission, a comprehensive mentality of “whole government” has been adopted and has consisted of several stages (European Commission, 2019g);

- Strengthening the EU's participation in sustainability in the world,
- Regulating transformative policies and making them effective,
- Giving more priority to SDGs when creating policy with regulatory tools,
- Policy consistency in connection to Sustainable Development,

In addition to these, the scopes of the “Whole of Government approach” are given in the figure 2 below (European Commission, 2019g);



Figure 2. Whole of Government approach

According to this approach, the EU aimed to maintain sustainability at home and abroad in accordance with the UN SDGs. However, with this approach, although the Commission emphasizes the 17 titles of the SDGs, as examined in the EGD title, targets for the ecological side of sustainable development have been determined mostly. In terms of development, the whole of government approach of the EU which is reluctant to deal with many "underdeveloped countries (southern countries)" of the world, is open to discussion. For this reason, the environmental component of sustainability will be

discussed in order for the comparison of EGD and UN 2030 SDG to proceed smoothly. Because, unfortunately, there are not enough studies in the side of EU to allow to make a comparison on the "Development" part. The future strategies of the EGD and the UN 2030 SDGs regarding the fight against climate change will be examined under the next topic. In order to ensure a sustainable environment, which strategy is more holistic, inclusive and functional will be discussed by examining the recent climate studies.

4.2. SDG 13 AND THE EU CLIMATE NEUTRALITY STRATEGY

Every day, the influences of climate change are felt worldwide, not only on one region. As GHG emissions continue to rise, the outcomes of climate change are disproportionately felt in many non-GHG producing regions. The issue of combating climate change is vital importance to leave a livable, sustainable world and nature to next generations. EGD and UN 2030 SDGs, the main actors of the research, have developed future strategies regarding climate change. In this context, both have set various goals. "Climate action" is discussed in the 13th goal of the 17 goals within the scope of the UN 2030 Agenda. In the EGD, on the other hand, the target of being climate-neutral until 2050 has been determined, and accordingly, an economy principle with net zero GHG emissions has been assert. In the extent of the UN 2030 SDGs, various 17 topics about sustainable development were determined, but targets were set under only one heading related to climate change. The most essential goal of EGD, on the other hand, is to create a carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

Examining the results of the changes in terms of climate actions generated by both action plans, particularly in recent years, is required to establish a good comparison. First of all, it would be appropriate to say that the EGD, which is a comprehensive transition plan on combating climate change, offers more specific targets. It would be reasonable to compare numerous climate change-related innovations that have recently been implemented in the EU by looking at them within the context of EGD.

In recent years, many practices, strategies and innovations have been offered by the Commission for the realization of the primary objective of the EGD agreement, to be a carbon-neutral continent till 2050. These are (European Commission,2022a);

- i)** Entry into force of the European Climate Law,
- ii)** Proposing the Climate and Energy Legislation Package,
- iii)** European Climate Change Committee appointment,
- iv)** Allocating 40% of the budget of the RRF charter to climate expenditures.

It is critical that the European Climate Law, which went into effect in 2021, is enacted in accordance with the aforementioned climate change objectives. Because in this way, the primary object of EGD, the commitment to be a carbon-neutral continent by 2050 has turned into a binding obligation. In addition, progress has been made on other decrees of the European climate law, which binds the 2050 carbon-neutral target in 2022 (European Commission, 2022a:5). In this way, the implementation of sustainability only with an on-demand strategy has been prevented and a more solid ground for the future has been created.

On the other hand, in 2022 the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change was authorized in order to facilitate the implementation of the objectives set by EGD on climate change and to provide independent scientific advice (European Commission, 2021c:1).

Because of the negative consequences of Covid-19, member countries announced their RRF programs in 2021 to renovate their sectors. According to that, the RRF regulation created 40% of the total outgoings allocated to climate expenditures (European Commission, 2022b).

In reaction to the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission proposed the REPower EU Plan in May 2022 (European Commission, 2022a:5). The energy market was severely disrupted as a result of this occupation. With this strategy, von der Leyen stated that in order to replace the Russian fossil fuels, the transition to clean energy should be accelerated with energy saving on the consumer side and diversification on the supply side. To enable this transition, it is suggested that an extra investment of 210 billion euros be undertaken.

The EU can save around 100 billion euros a year by implementing such measures. Additionally, money will be made available for the implementation of RePowerEU with the remaining 225 billion Euros from the RRF (NEU, 2022). On the other hand, a further 20 billion Euro grant was offered from the plan Market Stability Reserve of the EU ETS to increase support (European Parliament, 2022b:11). These savings will allow greater funding to be allocated to climate change initiatives. We may argue that the EU has outlined a clear roadmap for climate action given that the allocation of at least 30% of the EU budget for the years 2021–2027 represents the greatest contribution to date.

In addition to these developments regarding climate action in recent years, some developments have also been made in adapting to climate change in order to remove the obstacles for the EGD to reach its 2050 target.

These are (European Commission, 2022a);

- i)** Publication of technical guidance on climate proofing of infrastructure for 2021-2027
- ii)** European Climate and Health Observatory entry into force by the Commission and the EEA in 2021
- iii)** Strengthening climate actions preparedness through The Mission on Adaptation Climate Change,
- iv)** Submission of Initial Compliance Statement to UNFCCC in 2021

To fight the harmful health effects brought on by climate change, the Commission and the EEA established the European Climate and Health Observatory(2022). This observatory will make it feasible to combine national health policy with initiatives for climate adaption (UNFCC, 2021:4).

The Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, on the other hand, aims to make the cities and regions of the EU resilient and has made a substantial contribution to climate change prevention. This strategy supports 150 communities and regions to accelerate their transformation to achieve the 2030 goal in the EU (ERRIN, 2022). With this mission, it is aimed to contribute to the implementation of adaptation strategies and to better understand the risks arising from climate change in the future. The European

Environment Agency is planning a report on the status of national adaptation action about adaptation as climate activities in the EU take shape day by day. With this report, the national authorities' energy regulation will be analyzed, and information on the process of taking action for adaptation will be collected (EEA, 2022:63).

Although climate action did not begin with EGD in the EU, as we have examined above, it is certain that it seriously accelerated with von der Leyen's introduction of EGD in 2019. EU took more radical decisions about climate change with the EGD, and increased the responsibilities of member states. In addition to the commitments made in the Paris Agreement, it can be seen that the EU's aim to meet its 2050 carbon-neutral target is unaffected by any global agenda. The EU was able to make swift choices and did not compromise on climate problems in either the Covid-19 epidemic or Russia's occupation of Ukraine. This shows that, regardless of the global agenda, the EU will adhere to the goals it has established within the scope of EGD. Furthermore, the proposals to increase the energy saving targets for 2030 are also proof that the EU has the power to move beyond the targets set by the EU.

On the other hand, the EU, which has made significant contributions to both the preparation phase and the operation and development phase of important climate change strategies such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, has demonstrated its pioneering stance regarding climate action by revealing its first neutral-continental target via EGD. It is debatable if the solutions are workable until they are implemented on a worldwide basis, despite the fact that the EU is taking climate action, which is an essential step in terms of protecting the environment and keeping the nature-human balance within the bounds of sustainability. In other respect, as was discussed in the previous chapter, there is a convergence between the two. One of the UN 2030 Agenda's environmental objectives is the climate action target, which is in many ways similar to the EGD. SDGs, as President von der Leyen stated, are an essential component of her political program (European Commission, 2020c).

Since the mid-1990s, the UN has been organizing yearly conferences within the scope of the UNFCCC, whose work on climate action dates back much more than the EU. The COP (conference of the parties) should be organized in coordination with approved

intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, as stated in the second paragraph of Article 7 of the Convention (UN, 2015). Besides the cooperation, it also states that it will benefit from the data which provided by the parties. These conferences served as a formal forum for debating the obligations of the Kyoto Protocol in the beginning, and then, in 2011- 2015, they also served as a negotiation environment for the terms, obligations, and development of the Paris Agreement (Wamsler et al., 2020:234). The Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol's implementation have been discussed at every COP to date (Pouffary et al., 2018).

The climate leg of the UN 2030 Agenda targets was carried out with the participation of 194 countries on the date 8-12 November under the title of 2022 UN Climate Change Conference “COP27”. This conference provided a discussion environment on how to develop policies and practices that serve the implementation of SDG13.

At this conference (UN, 2022b);

- A new report on the implementation of the Global Climate Observation System (GCOS) has been prepared,
- UNFCCC reports on annual stocks of parties located in Annex-I have been revised again,
- Common criteria used to measure the carbon dioxide equivalent of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions were examined,
 - National Adaptation Plans have been evaluated,
 - Issues about Action for Climate Empowerment have been addressed,
 - Modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis have been revised,
- The 2022 Compliance Committee Report and the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Compliance Committee were reviewed,
 - Long-term climate finance has been evaluated,
 - Issues related to permanent committee financing were discussed,
 - Topics related to underdeveloped countries are discussed,

- Technical progress report of 2022 Paris Capacity Building Committee presented.

The 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan is critical for giving the UNFCCC some crucial information and statistics in the context of this conference. Because GCOS regularly prepares situation reports that evaluate progress and unfulfilled situations in climate monitoring systems (UNFCCC, 2021:1). These status reports help GCOS build improvement strategies for the areas that require them. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (UN, 2022b) said at COP27 “The Just Energy Transition Partnerships are critical for hastening the coal phase-out and ramping renewables. Nevertheless, we require far more. That is why I am so passionate about a Climate Solidarity Pact.” In this regard, the Secretary-General highlighted that everyone should contribute and also he emphasized that all countries should show extra efforts in the next ten years to meet the 1.5-degree target. He continued by saying that for this to realize, funding from private sectors and international financial institutions is required (UN, 2022b).

As examined above, the fight against climate change has advanced thanks to both the UN 2030 Agenda and the EGD, and one of their primary focuses of both of them has been climate action. Of course, the UN 2030 Agenda and EGD were not the beginning of the EU and UN's works on combating climate change. However, it's very essential to look at the goals of both approaches in recent years to shed light on the possibility of the question of "what will happen" in the future. Let's look at some points in this context where the EGD targets and the UN 2030 SDGs are similar;

i) Both systems aim to work for a sustainable future,

ii) The targets for 2030 are included in both approaches,

iii) Both methods put people at the center and both of them emphasize the need of cooperation in order to be successful in the climate actions determined for the two strategies,

iv) Both approaches aim to accomplish the obligations of the Paris Agreement,

However, although nevertheless, these are generally overlapping goals with each other, both approaches also have many differences in terms of inclusiveness, holistic and functional aspects. We can examine some of these differences as follows;

- While the approach of EGD purposes to create a climate-neutral continent till 2050, on the other hand, such a clear decision has not been reached within the scope of the UN SDGs.
- With the European Climate Law, EGD did not leave the goal of realizing a sustainable future to an “arbitrary” responsibility and gave responsibilities to its member states by preparing a legal basis. But because there is no law on climate with the extent of UN 2030 SDGs, it is very difficult that the responsibilities of that to be adopted, confirmed, and implemented by member countries.
- Within the scope of EGD, while a series of policy activities such as the Climate and Energy Legislation Package and the appointment of the European Climate Change Board are taking place in order to combat climate change; Improving innovations on climate change under the UN SDG were not presented, climate-related issues were discussed within the frame of the COP.
- During the Covid-19 epidemic period, while the EU organized an RRP regulation and allocated 40% of its budget to climate expenditures; UN SDGs have maintained a more passive attitude in the fight against the Covid-19 epidemic, and such an encouraging development has not happened.
- The EGD 2050 strategy plans a detailed roadmap for achieving the climate-neutral goal, but the SDGs approach lacks anything similar.
- For the realization of EGD's 2050 climate-neutral target; it has aimed to provide more money flow and to save its budget in long term with many tools such as JTF (part of the JTM) which is expected to mobilize 55 billion Euros, Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), REPower Plan etc. However, when we look at the UN 2030 SDG approaches, this cannot happen because the member states do not have the tools to encourage them to implement sustainable development policies.
- While the EGD limits its climate change target more regionally, there is no such limitation in the UN SDGs.
- The approach of the SDGs addresses an estimated 194 countries, whereas the EGD's climate actions obligations only include EU member states.

- The European Commission has recommended a comprehensive package to achieve 2030 targets rapidly, but no acceleration work is available in the SDG approach.

The general chart indicates that it is not possible to say that both approaches are equally inclusive. Even while the SDGs are holistic, they are not comprehensive compared to EGD because in terms of its functional areas it doesn't have clear targets. Following EGD in Europe, the developments regarding climate change are quite active. On the other side, the UN Intergovernmental Conferences on Climate Change (IPCC) are where SDG 13's implementation within the framework of the UN 2030 SDGs is discussed. The SDG 2022 research claims that the UN 2030 Agenda's expectations are inadequate given the current climate conditions. According to the IPCC, the responsible UN body that evaluates the issues related to Climate Change, urgent action should be taken to keep global warming 1.5, which is the commitment of the Paris Agreement, before 2025. Although nations have developed financially supported climate plans to minimize emissions, this is insufficient.

The SDG 2022 report states that greenhouse gas emissions peaked again in 2020 and that the average world temperature in 2021 was around 1.11 ± 0.13 °C higher than pre-industrial levels (UN, 2022e: 52). This measurement shows that the date range of 2015-2021 is one of the warmest seven years. This research also emphasizes the potential for climate events to increase day by day. Moreover, it is stated that extreme results, such as Canada's record-breaking temperatures and the droughts in South America and Africa can be experienced in every continent. Additionally, fossil fuel emissions, which reached a record level in 2021, eliminated the declines due to the pandemic. (Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) decreased globally by 5.2% in 2020. It is presently at its highest levels ever after rising by 6%.) (UN, 2022e:53). On the other side, developed countries promised developing nations they would utilize \$100 billion together for climate action by 2020, but OECD data shows that developed nations have broken this pledge (OECD, 2020).

On the other hand, it is not possible to state that there are new talks that will make the conference different from past years when the discussion themes of COP27, which was held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2022, are studied. When the conference results are examined above, it is highlighted that at least 4-6 trillion USD per year are required for a

global change, indicating worries about the target's viability even though the goal of mobilizing 100 billion USD by 2020 has not been achieved.

The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC proposed the following ideas at COP-27 in order to help the SDGs continue to advance in the area of climate (UN, 2022c):

i) Every area involving human activities should be in accordance with the Paris Agreement and should be limited to 1.5 degrees.

ii) Develop mitigation and adaptation in workflows, and a financial flow should be provided for this.

iii) The need of developing accountability and transparency norms was underlined.

Additionally, according to the NDC synthesis reports, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC stated that only 24 countries out of 194 came forward with compressed national plans(UN, 2022c). As it can be understood from this statement, there are significant unsolved gaps pursuant to the IPCC in the 27th COP, which has been held since the mid-1990s.

According to the examinations, SDG13, which were created to help the world fight climate change, is not proceeding as planned. The first of the three main objectives, the goal of “strengthening adaptation capacities in all countries”, cannot be possible unless countries accomplish their commitments. The second goal, incorporating climate change mitigation measures into policies, methods, and programs, needs the development of new instruments because, as seen by previous reports, this goal has not been achieved. Finally, the third objective is the development of institutions in line with the increase of knowledge and capacity to fight against climate change. However, the question of how this decision, published in 2015, has been carried out until today also comes to mind. Consequently, SDG13 is one of the goals declared under the UN 2030 Agenda eight years ago, but it has not achieved its stated objectives. It can be argued that the reasons such as the lack of tools by the UN to encourage the implementation of climate policies and the fact that the states focus on their own agenda are effective in this consequence.

The EU 2022 Climate Action report states that local GHG emissions in the EU increased by 4.8% in 2021 compared to the most recent low epidemic level in 2020,

however, they remained below 2019 levels by 4% (European Commission, 2022d). On the other hand, this report claims that the greenhouse gas intensity of member countries has decreased by 5.5% compared to the baseline of 2010 (European Commission, 2022d). However, studies of climate action reveal significant variations among the participating nations. If it's necessary to give an example, just 11 of the member nations have been able to reach the target declared in the Fuel Quality Directive. Furthermore, the report includes the information that the most considerable increase in emissions is in the transportation sector and this rate is over 7%. The Commission, which thinks that it is necessary to act more quickly for the 2030 target, recommended a comprehensive package called "Fit For 55". In addition, 40% of the budget of 26 plans prepared under the RRP and accepted in September 2022 was given to climate investments (European Commission, 2022d).

Taking into account these findings, the climate activities of the EU, which have an "ambitious" strategy for a sustainable future, surpass the goals established under the UN 2030 Agenda. It is clearly noticed that the operational process of the EGD is controlled more effectively in numerous respects. Because in order to create the foundation for collaboration, the 194 UN members must take more radical actions. Because of this, even though it is difficult for 194 nations to construct a plan like EGD, it is essential for the stated SDGs. Additionally, because none of the mentioned countries are subject to any legal obligations, like the duty to implement the EGD, the countries indicate a tendency to act according to their own financial and national interests. The UN 2030 SDGs' implementation and advancement in fighting against climate change would remain improbable if no action is taken in this direction. Consequently, it becomes apparent that the worldwide UN 2030 Agenda's international endeavor has failed when it is evaluated in light of climate actions. As a matter of fact, in order to realize this effort, it is necessary to increase the tools that will encourage countries to take action on climate action, and to develop cooperation on the basis of countries. The UN 2030 Agenda is not as comprehensive and all-encompassing as the EGD, to put it simply. On the other side, until greenhouse gas emissions fall, it is unclear how both of the strategies will achieve their regional or global goals.

4.2. SDG 14, SDG 15 AND EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The term biodiversity refers to the many billions of unique living things that exist on Earth and the interactions that take place between them. Overfishing, climate change, pollution, intense urbanization, deforestation, and invasive alien species are the main causes of the decrease in biodiversity, which has been put in danger in recent years. The conservation of biodiversity is very important in many aspects. First of all, biodiversity must exist in order to offer decent soil, potable water, and clean air to stipulate a sustainable future for the next generations. The most recent facts, however, make it very obvious that unsustainable activities threaten nature. Moreover, the number of wild species has declined by more than 60% in the past 40 years. Additionally, experts claim that more than 1 million species are in danger of extinction (Brown, 2018; Shaw, 2018). Furthermore, the "State of Nature in the EU" report from 2020 revealed that on a European basis, 63% of EU protected species and 81% of habitats have "poor" or "wrongful" conservation statuses (UNRIC, 2022).

The conservation of biodiversity, which is in serious danger day by day, has now become an issue that needs to be taken precautions. In this regard, various goals have been set in the EGD and UN 2030 Agenda. In this context, as a part of the EGD goals, the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 was developed with the goal of protecting biodiversity. On the other side, numerous goals have been established to ensure the sustainable use of forest areas, oceans within the framework of the UN 2030 SDGs SGD-14 Life Below Water and SDG-15 Live on Land. Despite the fact that both future plans address the same issue and negotiate in accordance with the CBD, they may have some differences in terms of inclusivity. The following table shows the general goals of both future strategies.

The Goals of SDG-15 (UNDP,2023a):	The Goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (European Commission, 2020d):
(i) Conservating and restoring terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems,	(i) Ensuring the establishment of durable and healthy ecosystems till 2030;

(ii) Restoring degraded forests and stopping deforestation activities,	(ii) Using effective policy management to turn at least 30% of the EU's land and oceans into protected areas.
(iii) Restoring degraded lands and stopping desertification,	(iii) In order to increase wealth and restore biodiversity, planting more than 3 billion trees of various types;
(iv) Conservation of mountain ecosystems,	(iv) Making at least 25,000 km of the EU's rivers to be free-flowing,
(v) Conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats,	(v) Restoring devastated ecosystems, and preventing further damage to the environment.
(vi) Encouraging access to genetic resources and equitable benefit distribution	(vii) Creating rich natural features in at least 10% of agricultural lands in terms of biodiversity,
(vii) Preventing illegal hunting and smuggling of protected species,	(viii) Managing 25% of agricultural lands for organic farming and promoting agroecology practices;
(viii) Preventing invasive alien species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.	(ix) Reversing the decline in pollinator populations;
The Goals of SDG-14 (UNDP,2023b):	(x) Reducing pesticide use and risk by at least 50%,
(i) Reducing marine pollution,	(xi) Addressing bycatch and seafloor damage issues.
(ii) Protecting ecosystems,	
(iii) Reducing ocean acidification,	
(iv) Sustainable fishing,	
(v) Protecting coastal and marine areas,	

(vi) Eliminating overfishing-related incentives,	
(vii) Increasing the financial benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources,	
(viii) Improving scientific understanding, investigation, and innovation for marine habitats,	
(ix) Supporting small-scale fishermen;	
(x) Implementing the International Law of the Sea.	

When the above table is examined, it is possible to claim that both future strategies set very inclusive goals for creating a sustainable world. It would be appropriate to look at the recent developments of the parties as well as the biodiversity debates and negotiations in order to make an effective analysis.

To accomplish the SDG-14 and SDG-15 objectives of the UN SDG 2030, the UN Biodiversity Conference was convened in Sharm El Sheikh (COP14) in 2018 and in Montreal (COP15) in 2022. Ministers and senior officials highlighted the significance of investing in biodiversity for people and the world during COP14 in 2018, as well as the post-2020 framework plan and the 2050 vision, consequently, they approved the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet (IISD, 2018:2).

A historic agreement was made and it was decided that 30% of the Earth would be preserved by 2030 at the UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP15), which was held in 2022, 23 targets determined for this decision (UN Environment Program, 2022). However, there were difficult discussions because of the numerous disagreements for the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration which was accepted at COP14 in 2018. Despite this, over the past four years, over 190 states have committed to give developing countries \$30

billion in aid to achieve these objectives by 2030 (Agence France, 2022). Additionally, The Kunming-Montreal GBF was also adopted on the conference's last day (UN, 2022a). The accomplishment of the following four universal and inclusive goals is necessary for environmental preservation, according to The Global Biodiversity Framework (UN, 2022a):

- (i) Protect threatened species, stop human-caused damage and reduce the extinction rate of all species at risk of extinction tenfold by 2050;
- (ii) To ensure the sustainable use and management of biodiversity in order to raise awareness among people that nature should be protected,
- (iii) To ensure fair sharing of digital sequence information on genetic resources,
- (iv) Provide that necessary tools to implement the GBF are available to all parties, including less developed countries and developing small island states.

The 23 resolutions accepted during the conference, which was presided over by China and hosted by Canada, can be summarized as follows (UN, 2022a):

- At least 30% of the world's areas of sea and land should be effectively protected (today, 17% of land and 8% of sea regions are protected).
- Reducing global food waste by 50%;
- Rearranging or eliminating subsidies that result in \$500 billion in annual losses;
- Mobilizing at least US\$200 billion per year on biodiversity conservation;
- Expediting financial flows from developed countries to developing countries and increasing this flow to at least US\$ 30 billion;
- Requiring transnational companies which have negative effects on biodiversity to disclose their risks and assessments in a transparent manner.

As it can be understood from the biodiversity actions which organized within the frame of UN, the UN 2030 SDGs in order to achieve the targets of SDG-14 and SDG-15 set tangible aims in the international arena and expedited efforts for 2030. Environmentalists also believe that Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which was approved by COP15, is just as important as the historic Paris Agreement plan to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees (Kucuk, 2022). The deal was described as "the

largest land and ocean protection commitment in history" by Brian O'Donnell of Campaign for Nature (Agencies, 2022).

On the other side, the EU has developed a 2030 Biodiversity Strategy to increase Europe's biodiversity by 2030 within the context of EGD, in addition to the global and comprehensive United Nations Biodiversity Negotiations coordinated by the UN. By tackling the biodiversity crisis, this plan aims to accept ambitious CBD objectives. The policy also purposes to support international biodiversity discussions.

As shown in the table above, it is possible to conclude that significant concrete goals in the area of biodiversity have been established in order to achieve the EGD targets. Additionally, in recent years, many activities have been carried out in accordance with the UN 2030 SDG and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The process conducted in previous years to implement the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy can be analyzed in Figure 4. (European Commission, 2022d).

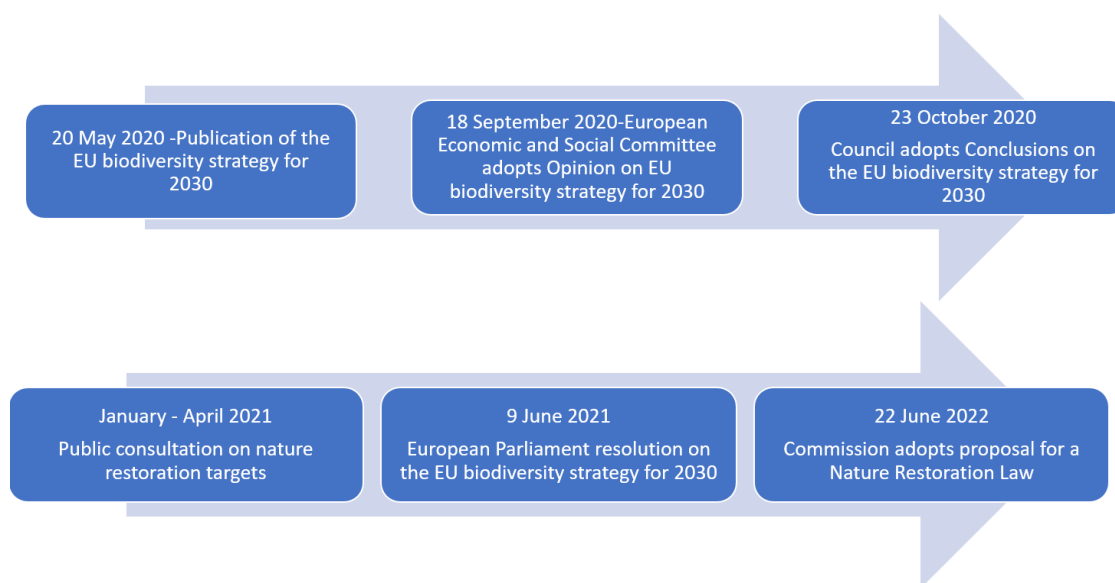


Figure 4. Processes of 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy

When the process is examined, it becomes clear that there has been a highly active agenda since the EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy was published. On June 22, 2022, the Commission suggested a "Nature Restoration Law" with legally enforceable clauses for

the preservation of certain species and their habitats as well as for the reduction of harm to land and marine ecosystems. This is the EU's first biodiversity law. In addition to these, the EU has made a commitment to implement more than 100 activities with the Biodiversity Strategy that are planned to be accomplished by 2030, and has developed the EU Biodiversity Strategy Actions Tracker tool to both assess and follow up on these (European Commission, 2022e).

In the light of this information analyzed, it is possible to say that several actions have been implemented in recent years that have contributed to the achievement of both the UN 2030 SDG and the EGD in the area of biodiversity. In this context, we can list the convergences and differences of between the two future plans as follows;

- While settling the UN 2030 Agenda, a clear proportional target for the conservation of biodiversity based on SDG-14 and SDG-15 targets was not determined, this target was discussed at the COP15 negotiations arranged in 2022 (for example, effective protection of 30% of land and seas, etc.), however, EGD was published under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 in 2020, just one year after its development, arrangement and presentation, and set the target of protecting at least 30% of the land and seas by 2030. This indicates that it took 7 years (2015-2022) for the decisions taken for the 2030 SDGs to protect biodiversity under the auspices of the UN, from abstract to concrete.
- The Commission suggested a "Nature Restoration Law" in 2022 to assure that nations in Europe have a legal obligation to conservation biodiversity, although such legislative developments are not in question in the UN 2030 Agenda process.
- "EU Biodiversity Strategy Actions Tracker" tool has been developed in order to carry out the this strategy for 2030 action; this allows for unambiguous monitoring of the actions done, planned to be performed, or delayed by the EU in the area of biodiversity. Because of this, it can be argued that a more effective procedure is carried out. On the other hand, there is no open platform that allows us access to information on the actions that have been taken, will be taken, and are being delayed in order to achieve SDGs 14 and 15.

- COP15 the UN Biodiversity Conference, held in Montreal in 2022, was last held in Sharm El-Sheyk (COP14) in 2018 before this date. On the other side, since the publication of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which has entered into force under the EGD on this subject, it has implemented various actions over the years. For this reason, while the adoption of the commitments made at the conferences under the UN umbrella by the states and other bodies getting hard, the ones made under the EGD are constantly up to date.
- Although it is specified in the EU Biodiversity Strategy that at least 20 billion euros would be provided yearly, no strategy has been determined on how much annual average funding is necessary for biodiversity until 2030 within the extent of the "UN 2030 SDG" that went into effect in 2015. Within the framework of COP15, developing nations were pledged to pay 30 billion year by 2030, however, there were disagreements throughout the discussions over how to finance goals and objectives.
- An essential stage in the EU's growth plan is the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which was developed under the EGD. EGD is a fair, welfare, no greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity conservation economic plan, but there is no mention of economic growth or any other growth strategy plan under UN 2030.
- EGD approach aims to implement its strategy plans, which is related to the conservation of biodiversity, across Europe such as planting 3 billion different trees, managing 25% of agricultural lands in accordance with organic agriculture, etc. On the other hand, the UN 2030 SDG has set goals that cover the globe, including small island pieces.
- The UN Biodiversity Conference is not only dependent on the newly created negotiation environments for the realization of the objectives of the protection of biodiversity set in the UN 2030 Agenda, actually these conferences have a history. Thanks to the UN Biodiversity Conferences, the 2030 process is being tried to be accelerated, however, even if the EU has made plans for biodiversity before the EGD was published, a new strategy environment has been developed with the publication of the EGD and a new and exhaustive process has been established with the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

- In May 2022, the European Commission published a detailed 450-page report titled "Biodiversity Financing and Tracking" as part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, however there is no financial report for the UN 2030 SDG.

On the other hand, many goals of both of these future strategies support each other. For example, with the 2022 COP15 negotiations, the target of effective preservation of 30% of the world's lands and seas will be supported even if it is within the scope of Europe with the EU Biodiversity Strategy. In addition to the EU CBD, the Nagoya Protocol was signed by 132 countries in 2022 on access to genetic material and risk sharing; in this context, a clear framework has been established for the natural, fair and equitable use of genetic resources regarding biodiversity (UN, 2022e: 56).

However, when it is examined that the targets set in the scope of SDG 14 and SDG 15 set in 2015, it is observed that most of them are based on intangible targets. Because of this situation, question marks are occurred in mind about how, where and by which method the determined goals will be achieved. Additionally, more cooperation, more negotiation, and more biodiversity actions are necessity for these targets that appeal to the world in terms of extent compared to EGD. The fact that the UN, which did not take intangible targets on biodiversity in 2015 within the frame of the SDG 2030 targets, "finally" turns to concrete targets through COP15 in 2022 is still a considerable development that sheds light on ensuring a sustainable future. The 25 targets which appointed within the framework of COP15 and planned to be accomplish by 2030 mark the most comprehensive and holistic commitment to date.

Bringing together more than 140 nations under the same roof is a significant step toward achieving the UN 2030 SDGs. However, nations do not create new policy tools to fulfill practices in this respect, and topics relating to biodiversity conservation are only debated through conferences. This raises unanswered questions about how these decisions will be carried out. Even while various commitments on biodiversity have been determined by many countries under for 2022 under the auspices of the UN, the fact that there are still uncertainties in terms of financing concerns shows that international collaboration is challenging. According to the UN 2022 SDG report (UN, 2022e);

- Although it is seen an increase in marine protected areas (MPAs) and other measures to protect aquatic biodiversity and the global coverage of MPAs has been set at 8 percent of global coastal waters and oceans in 2021, 55% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are still not conserved,

- Over the past two years, ocean acidification has nearly doubled from 178 in 2021 to 308 in 2022,

- Many countries have been slow to implement regulations for both poaching and unreported and unregulated fishing activities,

- The amount of plastic pollution entering the ocean each year will have doubled or tripled by 2040 and threatening marine life,

- In 2020, the proportions of forests have decreased to approximately 31.2% (it was 31.9% of the total land area in 2000), and a forest land of 100 million hectares have been lost,

- Remarkable losses have been occurred in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa as a result of the conversion of forests to agricultural land,

- It is stated that the extinction risk of some species has increased significantly and there was a 9.2 percent deterioration between 2002-2022.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to obtain data from the 2022 SDG report on the extent to which international decisions taken within the scope of biodiversity have been realized or in which process they are. The studies and rules pertaining to the procedure in this case are not explicitly specified in the report, despite the fact that the UN closely monitors and examines the studies towards the objectives. In addition, this report also indicates that the desired process has not been managed in the implementation of many biodiversity strategies and positive regulations for the future. On the other hand, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which entered into force in 2020, gives statistical information by categorizing the regulations made until 2030 by years. Consequently, it is a crucial formation not only for monitoring the process, but also taking action. The processes and deadlines of the action plans are as follows:

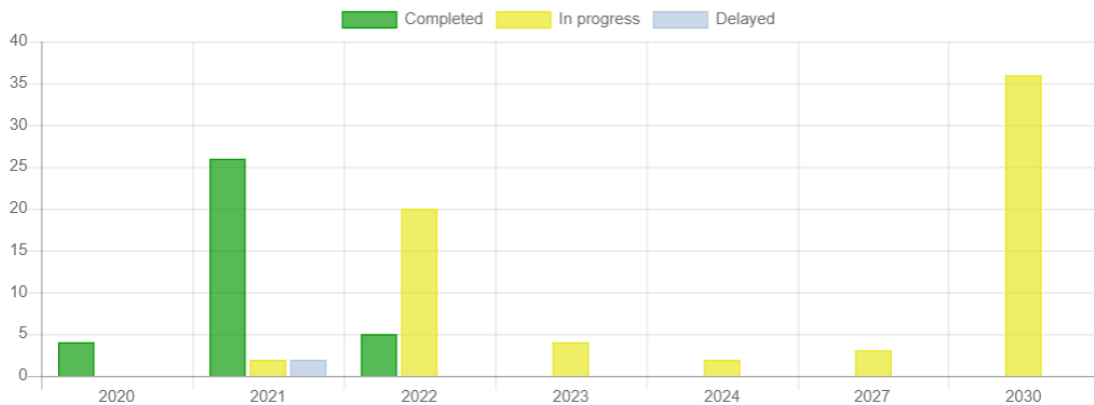


Figure 5. The processes and deadlines of EU Biodiversity Actions

Even though the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which appears fresh, only has a 2-year database, each advancement it has achieved in recent years is also shown in the timeline above. To negotiate the objectives for biodiversity conservation targeted under the UN 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to wait until the following UN Conference on Biodiversity. Unless the UN provides incentives to nations to adopt intermediary measures, the fulfillment of the pledges made within the scope of COP15 appears to be exceedingly challenging because of the nature of the international system.

4.4. SDG 7 AND EU ENERGY ACTIONS

Energy production is one of the primary causes of climate change since it produces 60% of all greenhouse gases (Crow et al., 2019:1243). Over 75% of GHG emissions inside the EU framework are a result of energy usage and production (European Commission, 2019g:6). For this reason, in their published reports, climate scientists have highlighted the urgent need for a clean global energy transition towards zero or low-carbon sources (Kala, 2019). However, as good and necessary as the implementation of this energy transition is for the environment and people, the fact remains that this energy transition is difficult and costly, especially for developing or underdeveloped countries. Therefore, international cooperation has become necessary to ensure a fair and equal transition. It can be said that the last leg of these joint efforts is shaped in line with the

targets taken within the scope of UN 2030 SDG and EGD. In this regard, a future plan titled SDG-7 Affordable and Clean Energy was formed in the UN 2030 SDG content while the EU set 2030–2050 clean energy objectives in accordance with the EGD aims with the Clean Energy for All Europeans package in 2019 (Hainsch et al. ,2022:2). Similar objectives are set for the future by both future acts, but there are some variances. First of all, it is helpful to examine the actions related to the energy targets of the last years within the scope of the EGD and then the UN 2030 SDG. Examining the latest developments in energy actions under the EGD and the UN 2030 SDG is critical to compare the objectives of both. Because in this way, we can determine if both future projects are stagnant or actively being worked on.

We can summarize the targets within the scope of EGD and UN 2030 SDGs as follows;

<p>SDG-7 (UNDP, 2023c);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Promoting the development of reliable, economical, and modern energy services; (ii) Doubling the pace of global energy saving growth; (iii) Significantly raising the percentage of renewable energy in the world's energy supply. 	<p>EGD 2030 Goals (European Commission, 2021b);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Reducing GHG emissions in continental Europe by at least 55% (based on 1990 levels), (ii) Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in primary energy by at least 32 percent, (iii) Achieving at least 32.5% improvement in the final target in energy efficiency by establishing an integrated energy system, (iv) Establishing a digitalized, highly integrated, networked, and reliable electricity sector in the EU.
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The realization of the goals of both parties mentioned above largely contingents upon the accomplishment of the plans determined for climate change. Because as GHG emissions increase, while the resistance of the fight against climate change decreases, access to clean energy becomes more difficult and accordingly energy efficiency cannot be achieved. More renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures should be used in order to lower GHG emissions. For instance, in order to achieve EGD's 2030 and 2050 climate-neutral targets, the production and use of energy, which is the main source of GHG emissions in Europe, must be cut by 75%.

Several actions have been taken to carry out the EGD 2030 energy targets outlined above. For this intent, it is aimed to update the decisions taken on energy production and use within the scope of EGD over time (for instance: boosting the proportion of renewable energy, which was determined as 32%, to 38-40% in primary energy). Intending to the target of reducing GHG emissions by 55% till 2030 with the Fit For 55 package, the Commission emphasized that the provisions of the EED should be updated again with this package (Ovaere & Proost, 2022). The EU EED, which was initially established in 2012 with the goal of the EU and its member states improving their energy efficiency by 20% by 2020, was changed in 2018, and the target of at least a 32.5% improvement until 2030 was set (Fuglsang, 2022). Finally, a revision was made in the EED's content to align it with the 55% GHG target with the Fit for 55 legislation package was enacted in 2021. In addition to this, it aims to facilitate the passage to a green economy by reforming the tax systems for energy products under the purview of EGD for the passage to fair energy and making the right incentives. On the other hand, in order to reduce the social impact, the Commission has proposed to support citizens and align tax rates with climate targets (European Council, 2022).

On the other side, once Russia invaded Ukraine, natural gas began to be utilized as a political weapon. To address this energy issue, the European Commission presented the REPowerEU plan (Sezgin, 2022). This strategy aims to prevent Bulgaria, Finland, and Poland's natural gas difficulties as well as their dependency on Russian energy supplies. The Commission intends to manage a process for this plan's implementation that would cost about 100 billion euros annually (European Commission, 2022f). The

following goals have been determined within the frame of the RePowerEU in summary (European Commission, 2022f);

- Increasing energy savings,
- Encouraging citizens to change their energy consumption behavior,
- Procuring financial support for energy saving,
- Increasing investments in renewable energy as one of the plan's goals,
- Reevaluating energy production process in industries using natural resources,
- Quickening the process of approval of investments in renewable energy,
- Establishing an organized working group of industry professionals from the sector to offer access to market data on the gas supply chain.

As can be seen, RePowerEU has significantly expanded the decisions made for the passage to fair energy within the scope of EGD and has proposed additional obligations. In addition to the above targets, for the implementation of the RePowerEU plan, the Commission has further proposed an EED amendment to achieve 13% more energy savings by 2030 (European Parliament, 2022b). As a result, for the 2030 aim, the EU sets more assertive and binding boundaries at the national level.

When the objective of creating a carbon-neutral continent, which is the EGD 2050 target, is evaluated within the context of energy actions, it is crucial for the EU to continuously strive toward updating its targets and to take immediate action against the crises occurring in the world, as it sets an example for other countries. On the other hand, within the scope of SDG-7, which is included in the 2030 Agenda, three main goals have been determined for the passage to clean and accessible energy.

When we look at the actions that were made in order to achieve the global targets of SDGs in recent years, we can say that 2021 High-Level Dialogue On Energy summit and EnergyNow SDG-7 Action Forum which is held in 2022 are significant developments. UN-Energy plays a critical role in both energy actions. UN-Energy (2004) is a mechanism established by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to reinforce inter-organizational cooperation (UN, 2022b:3). As an important tool to achieve SDG-7 goals, UN-Energy aims to develop incentive actions to carry out the UN SDG 2030 (SDG-7) and Paris Agreement commitments. This mechanism, in which more

than 190 countries cooperate, also brings together about 30 organizations that are leaders in their fields (UN, 2022d:2).

At the 2021 High-Level Dialogue On Energy summit, more than 130 leaders, including CEOs, senior government officials, executive heads of international organizations, and other multi-stakeholder groups, gathered. As the UN General Assembly's first global energy gathering in 40 years, this dialogue has historical significance. (UN, 2022d:7). As part of this dialogue, the UN-Energy Plan of Action has been launched to provide a global roadmap to implement SDG-7 action. As a result of this dialogue, we may sum up the commitments made to accomplish SDG-7 objectives as follows (UN 2021a);

- Governments and the business sector have invested more than US\$400 billion in investment and finance,
- In accordance with the Energy Compacts, additional pledges have been made by more than 35 nations, ranging from tiny island developing to developed governments,
- New partnership initiatives declared to ensure more than one billion people have access to reliable electricity;
- Private companies committed to providing reliable energy, pledging to reach more than 200 million people,
- Not creating a new power plant plan for coal after 2021.

It is planned to create new energy facilities thanks to these commitments, and these facilities will result in substantial advancements in the field of energy efficiency. A lot more people will be able to find employment in these fields as new green job possibilities are developed with the transition to green energy. In addition to these commitments, the 2021 HLDE also draws a significant roadmap for reaching net zero emissions by 2050. Energy Compacts are a component of HLDE that launched in 2021 and consist of voluntary action plans created to meet SDG-7 objectives by 2030. These compacts play a key role to turn into the SDG-7 purposes into concrete actions. In this context, more than 200 Energy Compacts have been submitted to UN-Energy, available

to numerous groups from regional local governments to NGOs, from member states to private corporations (UN, 2022d:2).

One year after the realization of the 2021 HLDE, in order to achieve SDG-7 goals and reinforce the commitments that are made in the 2021 HLDE, The Global SDG-7 Action Forum was organized in 2022 (IISD, 2022). We can list the topics discussed in that forum;

(i) Sharing action plans, commitments and solutions to achieve SDG-7 and net zero emissions;

(ii) Reporting progress on Energy Compact commitments totaling more than US\$600 to provide the green energy transition;

(iii) Sharing information on trends and technologies impacted by the global energy crisis.

According to the 2022 Energy Compacts report;

- More than 180 of the energy contracts on display adhere to the UN's energy principles,

- In a short period of one year, USD 46 billion was invested in Compact commitments by the Compact society,

- Improved electricity access to 6 million people,

- In the period that covered 2021-2022, 88GW of renewable energy capacity was installed and 2,450GWh energy savings were achieved thanks to the steps taken for energy efficiency,

- With these energy contracts, it has been determined that 400 million tons of CO₂ emissions have been prevented and contributed to many other SDG targets, especially SDG-13.

In this report covering the years 2021-2022, it is observed that many actions have been implemented through Energy Compacts and significant progress has been made, when compared to the superficial future targets set in SDG-7. The main reason for this is that HLDE resulted in a global roadmap to hasten SDG-7 action.

It is possible to argue that the energy actions carried out under the structure of the UN in recent years have been quite active and intense. We can easily say that these actions

are the basis of the actions taken due to the decrease in natural energy resources, the increase in the expenditures of companies, organizations and states on energy production and consumption and hindering their future development. On the other hand, as was previously noted, decisions made in the context of the EGD and SDG-7 have been shaped around guaranteeing energy efficiency, advancing the development of renewable energy, and providing clean energy that is affordable for all. It is possible to list the convergences and divergences of these two approaches, which have energy targets for 2030, as follows;

(i) It is conceivable to claim that an "accelerated" process has begun in recent years for both methods of fulfilling the commitments set for 2030. (While the Clean energy for all Europeans package, Fit for 55 package, and REPowerEU plan published within the scope of EGD are energy actions to speed up this process, on the other hand, increasing the incentives of states to energy actions with the UN-Energy tool under the UN's structure and establishing the UN Energy Compact Action Network with the Energy Compacts in 2022 is an example.)

(ii) The EU set an ambitious goal of achieving a share in renewable energy with a target of 32% by 2030 in order to become a worldwide leader. Among the SDG-7 goals, no such ambitious, tangible aim that will make UN is a pioneer has been included.

(iii) More than 150 countries including European countries, NGOs, private sector executives, and CEOs of significant large companies participated in HLDE and The Global SDG-7 Action Forum. But the EU has not created such an incorporating negotiation platform, even though it is in contact with private sector executives, NGOs, and company CEOs in order to succeed in the EGD 2030 energy objectives.

(iv) UN-Energy offers comprehensive information on the most recent developments in SDG-7 objectives and how the process is improving, but no tracker tool has been established to look at the processes of energy targets determined under the scope of EGD.

(v) Despite the fact that the roadmap for the implementation of SDG-7 objectives has been submitted with the decision taken as a result of the 2021 HLDE included, it is feasible to conclude that a long-term roadmap has been formed for the achievement of energy activities by way of both SDG-7 and EGD.

(vi) While EGD is making savings plans like funding REPowerEU with the remaining 225 billion Euros from the RRF in order to create financing searches that will facilitate the implementation of energy actions, the funding required for the achievement of SDG-7 targets is only provided by governments and the private sector.

(vii) With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, SDG-7 objectives for 2030 have slowed down, and while this matter has been debated under the auspices of the UN, no action has yet been taken. However, the EU has established a number of pledges to carry out energy measures toward EGD and developed new roadmaps on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and savings programs with the REPowerEU plan.

(viii) Although still certain commitments have been made and discussed at various summits and conferences for the realization of SDG-7 determined within the context of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, concrete developments have been achieved in the last two years with the HLDE and The Global SDG-7 Action Forum. This demonstrates that the UN 2030 Agenda is late in gathering the relevant parties and taking concrete, not intangible targets to realize SDG-7. The Clean energy for all Europeans package, which was purposed to be realized in line with the EGD targets, was put into effect in 2019 as a continuation of the Energy Union strategy released in 2015, and in the following years, movements regarding energy actions were actively taken with EGD from the beginning.

(ix) The EU Strategy for Energy System Integration was developed to help EGD achieve its climate-neutral goal. The goal of this sector integration approach is to integrate various energy carriers, such as power, temperature, freezing, solid, gaseous, and fluid, in order to establish a circular energy market. But there has been no advancement in ensuring such integration within the context of the SDG-7 goals.

It's helpful to examine the reports which are belong to 2022 in order to learn the results of energy actions of EGD which is maintains a very intense agenda 8 years before 2030, and of SDG-7 targets in the process.

According to the report of SDG 2022 (UN, 2022e:40-41);

(i) Despite a rise in the global rate of access to electricity from 83% in 2010 to 91% in 2020, this growth has slowed in recent years as Covid-19 has made it more difficult to reach the most remote locations.

(ii) Around 90 million people in underdeveloped nations are unable to take advantage of service packages linked to electricity because of the pandemic's circumstances.
(iii) If today's tendencies continue, by 2030 only 92 percent of the world's population will have access to electricity and 670 million people will be left without service,
(iv) Although the proportion of renewable energy in total final energy consumption has increased compared to 2010 (It reaches to 17.7% by increasing 1.6%) until 2019, on the other hand, in this period the overall amount of renewable energy consumption has increased by a quarter.
(v) The percentage of renewable energy in the electricity sector climbed from 19.7% in 2010 to 26% in 2019, but the electricity sector only accounts for one-fifth of global energy consumption overall.
(vi) To achieve the SDG-7 objective by 2030, energy intensity improvements should average 3.2% annually.
(v) It has been shown that regional development differs owing to variables such as energy supply and economic structure, despite expenditures being made to make clean energy accessible.
According to the report prepared by the Commission in 2022 (European Commission, 2022g);
(i) In the period between 2019 and 2022, the average proportion of energy expenditure in the EU increased by more than one third, and even doubled in some countries,
(ii) According to Eurostat data, approximately 35 million EU citizens were unable to adequately heat their homes in 2020.
(iii) The increase in energy prices placed millions of EU citizens in a difficult situation, despite the fact that all states took various actions, first due to the Covid-19 epidemic and then to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022;
(iv) Because of the increase in energy prices by the Member States, measures such as decrease in the taxes and grid tariffs have been taken to combat this situation;
(v) EU gas storage fill climbs to over 91% by mid-October 2022 (it's up from the 80% target),
(vi) Subsidies for renewable energy climbed by 7% in 2020 and fell slightly in 2021,
(vii) Subsidies for energy efficiency were found to have decreased in 2020 but recovered in 2021.

These reports make it clear that further actions beyond the ones already performed to reach the set objectives need to be taken. Despite the favorable impressions left by the applications submitted under the EU's purview, the concept of "accessible, safe, clean energy" has not been applied evenly. Although there have been improvements in this area, more energy should be consumed through increased energy activities. In other words, the quick renunciation of the use of coal and decarbonizing gas is necessary for the switch to clean energy. Meanwhile, the provision of safe, cheap, and clean energy is crucial for both consumers and companies, because it should appeal to everyone and benefit consumers for the clean energy transition. Technology should be used strategically, and the market should be linked, integrated, and digitized in order to realize these objectives. Reaching climate objectives will become an utopian goal and greenhouse gas emissions will keep rising, if these actions are not carried out on the basis of the both strategies.

5. CHAPTER: CONCLUSION

The research's conclusions were attained within the scope of a collaborative examination of the EGD and UN 2030 Agenda's goals for combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, and supplying clean energy on the basis of process and sustainability. Throughout the research, the concept of sustainability was taken as a basis, and the "development" part was left in the second plan. This concept whose definition has given rise to much discussion has been used in this research on the basis of an ability to preserve the environment and keep issues to a minimum.

In this research, it is discussed how both future plans depend on and support one another in a variety of ways. In reality, it is feasible to state that the European Commission, which prepares and presents various policies for the SDGs, manages a policy process based on the UN 2030 Agenda. Von der Leyen's Political Guidelines for

the years 2019–2024 contain the UN SDGs (European Commission, 2020d:3). The European Commission, however, was confirmed to directly contribute to just 12 of the 17 SDGs, despite demonstrating admirable leadership before and after the adoption of the SDGs, according to the 2021 Sustainable Development report (IEEP & SDSN, 2021:5). As can be understood from the report, it is possible to claim that the UN 2030 SDG is more inclusive than the EGD, because the social component of the SDGs is not addressed in the EGD and many of the SDG indicators are not politically agreed upon. In addition, the Eurostat 2022 SDG report indicates that the path taken by both future strategies to achieve SDG targets is not significantly related (Eurostat, 2022). In this research, the objectives established on an environmental foundation, which both future plans are very interested in, were explored and findings were reached within this framework.

Climate change was the first topic that contributed to the sustainability analysis of the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda. Throughout the research, the EU and UN, which garner attention for their active roles in combating climate change, have been examined in relation to the EGD and UN SDG 2030, as well as their divergences and convergences, as well as their process in recent years. The objectives of having Europe become a carbon-neutral continent by 2050 is the most ambitious decision made for climate action under the purview of EGD. Within the extent of the research on the carrying out of this target, developments such as the enactment of the European Climate Law, the creation of various packages and legislation, and the allocation of 30% of the EU fund to climate action were examined. In the context of climate, goals including enhancing resilience and capacity for adaptation to natural catastrophes in all countries and incorporating climate change-related measures into government decisions, initiatives, and programs were considered, which was examined under SDG-13. Within the scope of these targets, it was concluded that the targets specified in the UN 2030 Agenda were not presented in a concrete manner compared to the EGD. Although the discussion of climate-related issues within the framework of the COP, the main body of the UNFCCC within the scope of the UN 2030 Agenda, is effective in taking certain decisions; it was concluded that the implementation of SDG-13, according to the SDG 2022 report, was managed in an unsuccessful process because both it has both financial problems and due to the fact that states did not take

adequate responsibility. Reaching the climate-neutral aim is the primary objective of EGD. The EU which intends to offer finances for the development of climate action through several methods, such as the circular economy plan, RePowerEU, and Just Transition Mechanism, by allocating a significant budget for this. On the other side, via the last year's reports and conference outputs, it has been examined that there is no funding source for climate developments within the context of the UN 2030 Agenda, except for the participants of the international conference organized within the framework of the COP.

Additionally, the SDG 2022 report emphasizes the possibility of an increase in climatic events day by day. On the other side, the 2022 EU Climate Action report demonstrates that member nations' greenhouse gas intensity has decreased by 5.5% compared to the 2010 baseline. Although this rate has not been realized equally by the EU member states, it has been concluded that a more active process is followed in terms of taking actions to speed up the process (increasing budget, savings plans for climate support, etc.) toward 2030 compared to the SDG-13 determined within the frame of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Another finding of this study, which contributed to the analysis of the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda on the basis of sustainability, was acquired by examining the actions taken for the protection of biodiversity. SDG 15 Live on Land and SDG 14 Life Below Water, which are in the UN 2030 SDG content, were analyzed in order to arrive at these conclusions. On the one hand, SDG 15 Live on Land and SDG 14 Life Below Water, which are in the UN 2030 SDG content, were analyzed in order to arrive at these conclusions; on the one hand, the EU Biodiversity Strategy developed within the framework of EGD was evaluated. In this research, it was evaluated that the 2030 Agenda, which came into force in 2015, took tangible decisions with the GBF at the COP15 - UN Biodiversity Conference held in 2022, exactly seven years later, and it was concluded that the process was managed slowly.

However, a thorough examination of the 2020–2022 period of the EU biodiversity policy, which was published in 2020, has revealed that there has been a highly active agenda since the release of the EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy. Additionally, compared

to the UN SDGs, a more transparent process is followed as evidenced by the creation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy Actions Tracker tool to analyze biodiversity processes. Though concrete decisions have just been taken under the framework of the 2030 Agenda, it can nonetheless be argued that this initiative has advanced significantly when compared to the biodiversity conferences held so far.

Additionally, it was determined that both future plans have been managing an active process in recent years after comparing and assessing their procedures and contents. While it is true that more than 30 biodiversity-related actions have been carried out since the publication of the EGD, it is not yet known how much of the commitments made within the SDG framework that will be adopted by the states in 2022. In addition, the UN SDGs reports from the last year make it abundantly evident that, in terms of SDGs 14–15, an effective procedure has not yet been managed for both life on land and life below water.

It has become required to establish the boundaries of energy production, which is one of the primary contributors to climate change, in order to assure sustainability. This research contrasts the EGD's objectives with those of the UN 2030 Agenda and provides findings on their active role in recent years. When it is considered that more than 60% of greenhouse gas-producing gases originate from energy production, it can be openly argued that the realization of both climate action and biodiversity conservation targets depends to a certain extent on the realization of the targets in the energy sector. Both approaches were evaluated on the basis of their targets, and as a result, it was concluded that the process toward the EU 2030 energy targets specified under the EGD aims to continuously accelerate. Both the creation of "Fit for 55" and the unveiling of the REPowerEU plan indicate that the EU is following a process beyond the scope of achieving the EGD's declared goals. On the other hand, it was determined that the 2030 Agenda, which was evaluated under SDG-7, set intangible goals for 2030 under the heading of "clean, accessible energy." Targets such as considerably increasing the amount of renewable energy in the world's energy supplies by 2030 and doubling the pace of improvement in global energy efficiency by 2030 cause some question marks about how and to what degree they will be achieved. However, it is evident that, unlike the goals of

combating climate action and biodiversity conservation, within the scope of the 2030 Agenda, energy-related actions have been determined with more concrete targets, particularly in recent years. An instance is the global energy summit convened by the UN General Assembly for the first time in 40 years at HLDE in 2021. The UN has led several ambitious pledges to the implementation of SDG-7 in the 2021 HLDE, despite not organizing such a sizable gathering for SDG-7 since 2015. In order to achieve the SDG-7 objectives by 2030, it is crucial that the development process of the energy targets established within the UN 2030 Agenda be able to be tracked using the Energy Compacts Reports and the Energy Compacts, which are voluntary action plans in 2021. This research demonstrates that both of these future strategies, despite several divergences between them, have been following an active process, especially in the last two years. The 2022 reports were examined in the research to examine how effective this process is, and it was claimed that, in light of the reports' analysis, more action should be taken to implement the goals outlined in the EGD and SDG-7.

When we examine the biodiversity policies and climate change objectives in the EGD and the UN 2030 Agenda, it is noticed that a perspective that is not just human-centered but also emphasizes nature is offered. Additionally, as predicted by the green theory based on the ideology of ecology, this viewpoint necessitates significant changes in human social and political lifestyles in their interactions with non-human nature. It might be claimed that both include radical decisions when seen in the context of their respective purposes. On the other hand, the green theory advocates taking into account both formal and informal management institutions involved in global environmental change, contending that environmental problems should not just be handled based on governments. This feature of the green theory is referred to, on the one hand, the integration studies created for the sub-institutions for the realization of the EGD targets, and on the other hand, to realize the UN 2030 SDGs the combining of many institutions and people, such as NGOs and private sector managers, apart from the states, under the UN roof. But at this point, the green theory differs from the EGD and the 2030 Agenda because it advocates a full change of the system in order to make decisions at the global

level during the implementation phase. Because the countries' self-interests must clear away for the system to alter. In the world we live in today, this is not very likely.

Fundamentally, it is undeniable that the goals established under the EGD and the 2030 Agenda have considerable hopes for sustainability. However, it is difficult to paint a particularly optimistic chart by examining the UN reports, which have identified 17 SDGs. On the other hand, the fact that the EGD's aims are limited at the EU level and that they are primarily focused on energy and climate change activities has caused them to ignore social disparities across nations. Countries with heavy reliance on coal and natural gas, like Poland, Bulgaria, and Hungary, have challenges adjusting to the EGD's objectives.

Additionally, despite receiving financial assistance from JTM for the modernization and diversification of their economies, some nations may refuse to move green owing to rising energy costs brought on by Russia's recent occupation of Ukraine. Hungary, which is home to the EU's most polluting plants and is estimated to be responsible for about half of all energy emissions, claims on a lot of platforms that it is hesitant to fight climate change and that energy prices have increased too much. Therefore, the green transition cannot be realized equitably amongst countries and there are many deficiencies for this. On the other hand, because the transition to renewable energy, sustainable industry, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable cities are all included under the Circular Economy, the provision of the Circular Economy within the scope of EGD is highly dependent on the achievement of the stated targets. When the actions that will maintain that all the elements under this roof are satisfied are planned for and implemented, the circular economy system will spontaneously form and a transition to a carbon-neutral world will be accomplished. However, while determining all social, environmental and economic policies within this scope, these changes and developments should be provided for all citizens of the world, and for this, the necessity of a just transition is in question. For this reason, it is clear that the EU, which purposes to achieve its goals in line with the EGD, which was prepared only for a certain geographical region, has not yet established the system it wants in this respect.

On the other hand, this research claims that it is not possible for the SDGs, on which 193 countries have agreed, to act within a certain framework while providing such broad collaboration. The UN, which expresses its inclusiveness in abstract words, can still reveal the basic norms even within the framework of human rights, which has served as the cornerstone of the social order for over a century. The fact that the targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda are not routinely reported to the UN on a country basis raises some questions about how much countries have internalized the SDGs. The progress of the 17 SDGs from 2015 cannot draw a positive graph, although there is not much time left until 2030.

Both developing countries and small island countries need financial support from developed countries in order to contribute to their sustainability. However, in many conferences that took place, it was also mentioned in this research that countries abstained especially regarding financing. Despite the fact that, in contrast to the other SDGs, the UN oversees a more active, inclusive, and comprehensive approach under SDG-7, these efforts are pointless unless the 17 SDGs are implemented together. For instance, incentives for renewable energy can be raised, but unless there is a fair transition, this process will eventually come to a halt.

As a result, both future strategies still have a long way to go before they achieve their goals. Despite the divergences between them, their common goal is achieving a sustainable life. Created plans, and strategies, and held conferences indicate a great effort towards this issue. However, in order for EGD to achieve its goals, it first requires to weaken its non-global, continent-based, ambitious target, and then it requires turning its attention to socio-economic inequalities between member countries. On the other hand, for achieving the SDG 2030, lessons should be drawn from the SDG reports published every year and countries should be encouraged to produce new policies in this regard. Otherwise, it will be utopian for both of them to achieve their goals.

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